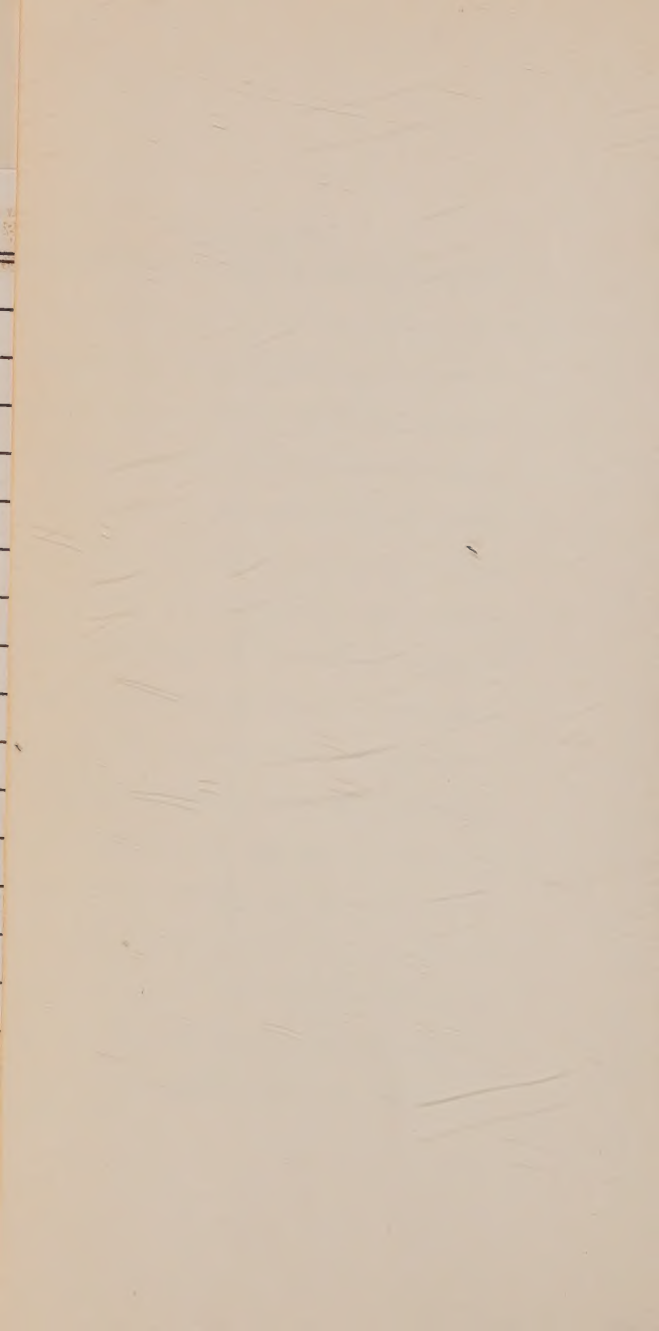


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English Surnames.

English Surnames.

AN ESSAY

ON

FAMILY NOMENCLATURE,

HISTORICAL, ETYMOLOGICAL, AND HUMOROUS;

16877

WITH

SEVERAL ILLUSTRATIVE APPENDICES.

BY MARK ANTONY LOWER, M.A.

Third Edition, Enlarged.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

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“WHAT'S IN A NAME?”

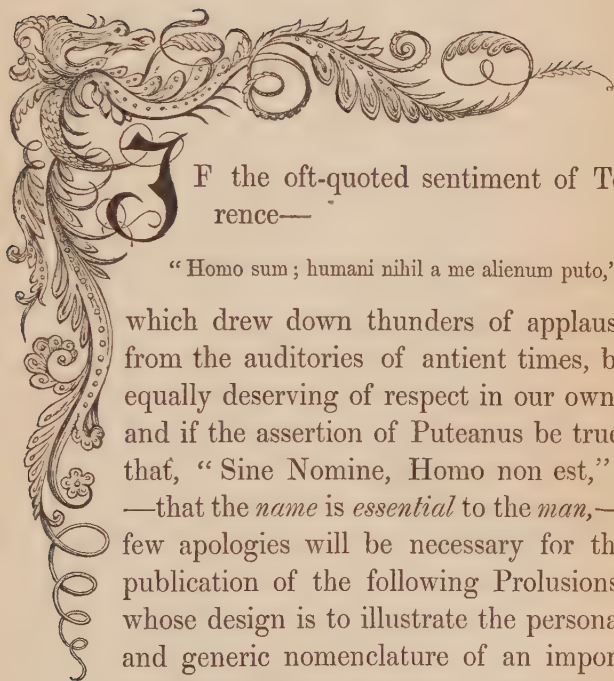
“Imago animi, vultus, vitæ, Nomen est.”—PUTEANUS.

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Preface.



IF the oft-quoted sentiment of Terence—

“Homo sum ; humani nihil a me alienum puto,”

which drew down thunders of applause from the auditories of antient times, be equally deserving of respect in our own ; and if the assertion of Puteanus be true, that, “Sine Nomine, Homo non est,”* —that the *name* is *essential* to the *man*,—few apologies will be necessary for the publication of the following Prolusions, whose design is to illustrate the personal and generic nomenclature of an important and influential section of the human

race. The utilitarian, it is true, may regard my labours as of little value, and put in a ‘Cui bono?’ but my reply to him shall be a brief one.—“Whatever

* Diatr. De Erycio.

serves to gratify a laudable, or even a merely harmless, curiosity, is useful, and therefore not to be despised."

That a curiosity as to the origin of proper names, and particularly of surnames, has prevailed to some extent is certain, from the number of literary men in England who have written (however slightly and unsatisfactorily) upon the subject, within the last three centuries; and that it *still* prevails is shown by the fact that since I undertook, a few years ago, more fully to illustrate the history and signification of our Family Names, scarcely a single week has passed without my receiving communications on the subject, both from literary friends, and from total strangers, unconnected with literature. Hundreds of letters from all parts of this country, from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, Belgium, and America, convince me, at least, that the inquiry is not devoid of interest, while at the same time they afford a flattering testimony that my investigations have been well received and appreciated.

The history of proper names not only affords a very curious chapter for the etymologist, but also illustrates the progress of society, and throws much light upon the customs and pursuits of departed ages.

With regard to English Surnames, there are two circumstances which demand remark in this Preface: namely, their great variety, and their extraordinary number.

That they should exhibit the former feature is not surprising, since, in the words of an eminent antiquary,* “we have borrowed names from everything both good and bad.” As this variety will fully develope itself in the respective chapters of the present Essay, I shall merely insert here, by way of proof, two or three lists of the surnames occurring among many others, in some of our public bodies. The first is from the humorous ‘Heraldic Anomalies’ of Dr. Nares :

“I have seen what was called an ‘Inventory of the Stock Exchange Articles,’ to be seen there every day (Sundays and holidays excepted) from ten till four o’clock.

“A Raven, a Nightingale, two Daws and a Swift.

A Flight and a Fall!

Two Foxes, a Wolf and two Shepherds.

A Taylor, a Collier, a Mason, and a Tanner.

Three Turners, four Smiths, three Wheelers.

Two Barbers, a Paynter, a Cook, a Potter, and five Coopers.

Two Greens, four Browns, and two Greys.

A Pilgrim, a King, a Chapel, a Chaplain, a Parson, three Clerks,
and a Pope.

Three Baileys, two Dunns, a ———, and a Hussey!

A Hill, a Dale, and two Fields.

A Rose, two Budds, a Cherry, a Flower, two Vines, a Birch, a
Fearn, and two Peppercorns.

A Steel, two Bells, a Pulley, and two Bannisters.

“Of towns: Sheffield, Dover, Lancaster, Wakefield, and Ross.
Of things: Barnes, Wood, Coles, Staples, Mills, Pickles, and, in fine,
a *Medley!*”

* Camden.

“ Our House of Commons has at different and no very distant times numbered amongst its members—

A Fox,	A Hare,	A Rooke,
Two Drakes,	A Finch,	Two Martins,
Three Cocks,	A Hart,	Two Herons,
Two Lambs,	A Leach,	A Swan,
Two Bakers,	Two Taylors,	A Turner,
A Plummer,	A Miller,	A Farmer,
A Cooper,	An Abbot,	A Falconer,
Nine Smiths !!!		

A Porter, Three Pitts, Two Hills,
 Two Woods, An Orchard, and a Barne,
 Two Lemons with One Peel !
 Two Roses, One Ford, Two Brookes,
 One Flood and yet but one Fish !
 A Forester, an Ambler, a Hunter,
 and only One Ryder.

“ But what is the most surprising and melancholy thing of all, it has never had more than one *Christian* belonging to it, and at present is without any !”

From many other pieces of humour of the same kind I select the two following. The first is an impromptu occasioned by the proposed elevation of Alderman Wood to the office of Lord Mayor, some years since :

“ In choice of Mayors ’twill be confest,
 Our citizens are prone to jest :
 Of late a gentle *Flower* they tried,
 November came, and check’d its pride.
 A *Hunter* next on palfrey grey
 Proudly pranced *his* year away.
 They next, good order’s foes to scare,
 Placed *Birch* upon the civic chair.
 Alas ! *this year*, ’tis understood,
 They mean to make a Mayor of *Wood* !”

The next is from a Methodist Almanack published three or four years since, and is entitled ‘ Wesleyan Worthies, or Ministerial Misnomers.’

“ If ‘ union is strength,’ or if aught’s in a name,
The Wesleyan Connexion importance may claim ;
For where is another—or Church, or communion—
That equals the following pastoral union :

A Dean and a Deakin, a Noble, a Squire,
An Officer, Constable, Sargeant, and Cryer,
A Collier, a Carter, a Turner, a Tayler,
A Barber, a Baker, a Miller, a Naylor,
A Walker, a Wheeler, a Waller, a Ridler,
A Fisher, a Slater, a Harpur, a Fidler,
A Pinder, a Palmer, a Shepherd, and Crook,
A Smith, and a Mason, a Carver, and Cook ;
An Abbott, an Usher, a Batcheler Gay,
A Marshall, a Steward, a Knight, and a Day,
A Meyer, an Alde-mann, Burgess, and Ward,
A Wiseman, a Trueman, a Freeman, a Guard,
A Bowman, a Cheeseman, a Colman, with Slack,
A Britten, a Savage, a White, and a Black,
French, English, and Scots—North, Southerne, and West,
Meek, Moody, and Meysey, Wilde, Giddy, and Best,
Brown, Hardy, and Ironsides, Manly, and Strong,
Lowe, Little, and Talboys, Frank, Pretty, and Young,
With Garretts, and Chambers, Halls, Temple, and Flowers,
Groves, Brooks, Banks, and Levells, Parkes, Orchards, and Bowers,
Woods, Warrens, and Burrows, Cloughs, Marshes, and Moss,
A Vine, and a Garner, a Crozier, and Cross ;
Furze, Hedges, and Hollis, a Broomfield, and Moor,
Drake, Partridge, and Woodcock—a Beach, and a Shoar,
Ash, Crabtree, and Hawthorn, Peach, Lemmon, and Box,
A Lyon, a Badger, a Wolfe, and a Fox,
Fish, Hare, Kidd, and Roebuck, a Steer, and a Ray,
Cox, Ca’ts, and a Talbot, Strawe, Cattle, and Hay,

Dawes, Nightingales, Buntings, and Martins, a Rowe,
 With Bustard, and Robin, Dove, Swallow, and Crowe,
 Ham, Bacon, and Butters, Salt, Pickles, and Rice,
 A Draper, and Chapman, Booths, Byers, and Price,
 Sharp, Sheers, Cutting, Smallwood, a Cubitt, and Rule,
 Stones, Gravel, and Cannell, Clay, Potts, and a Poole,
 A Page, and a Beard, with Coates and a Button,
 A Webb, and a Cap—Lindsay, Woolsey, and Cotton,
 A Cloake, and a Satchell, a Snowball, and Raine,
 A Leech, and a Bolus, a Smart, and a Payne,
 A Stamp, and a Jewel, a Hill, and a Hole,
 A Peck, and a Possnet, a Slug, and a Mole,
 A Horn, and a Hunt, with a Bond, and a Barr,
 A Hussey, and Wedlock, a Driver, and Carr,
 A Cooper, and Adshead, a Bird, and a Fowler,
 A Key, and a Castle, a Bell, and a Towler,
 A Tarr, and a Shipman, with Quickfoot, and Toase,
 A Leek, and a Lilly, a Green, Budd, and Bowes,
 A Creed, and a Sunday, a Cousen, a Lord,
 A Dunn, and a Bailey, a Squarebridge, and Ford,
 A No-all, and Doolittle—Hopewell, and Sleep,
 And Kirks, Clarkes, and Parsons, a Grose, and a Heap,
 With many such worthies, and others sublimer,
 Including a Homer, a Pope, and A RHYMER.”

If English Surnames are remarkable for their variety, they are no less so for their number. How great the latter may be, it would be a hopeless task to attempt to ascertain: it is sufficient to say with the Rev. Mark Noble, that “it is almost beyond belief.” A friend of that gentleman “amused himself with collecting all such as began with the letter A: they amounted to more than one thousand five hundred. It is well known that some letters of the alphabet are initials to more surnames than A:

allowing for others which have not so many, the whole number will be *between thirty and forty thousand!*"*

The Rev. E. Duke, in his valuable and extremely curious '*Halle of John Halle*,' starts the question, "whether the English nomenclature is or is not on the increase?" and he decides that, notwithstanding many of the older surnames become extinct every century,† it is still on the increase,

* Hist. Coll. Arms, Prelim. Dissertation. My late learned and highly esteemed correspondent E. J. Vernon, Esq. B.A., in some strictures on the second edition of this work, published in the Literary Gazette, expresses a doubt as to this estimate. He says the surnames derived "from Christian and Anglo-Saxon names and their modifications, amount to about 700; names from trades and offices, &c. to between 300 and 400; and 500 may be allowed for the other smaller classes; making in all 1500 or 1600. If now we keep to the random, but we think most ample, guess, of as many thousand *local* surnames, the total, which may be called between 15,000 and 20,000, will, we think, be much nearer the mark than Mr. Noble's estimate of 'between 30,000 and 40,000.'"

I must beg, however, to state my conviction of the correctness of this estimate, or rather assert its falling short of the truth. There are thousands of names borrowed from places which are almost limited to the localities which gave them birth, and which would consequently elude the notice of the name-hunter, unless he penetrated into every nook and corner of the kingdom. There are more than 10,000 parishes in England; and topographical antiquaries will bear me out in the assertion, that a single parish often comprises six, ten, or even more manors, hamlets, and other subdivisions, each of which has surnamed its family. Besides, Mr. Noble's calculation is formed upon a basis which would rather fall short of, than exceed, the truth.

† I am disposed to doubt the utter extinction of any name, when it has once become widely spread. Families, it is true, may fail in the elder or wealthier line, and female heirs convey property into other names; but in an overwhelming majority of cases there are descendants of other lines of the family left, and these often ramify and spread extensively in a more

and he accounts for this singular fact, by the following arguments: "Some [names] originated from the influx of foreigners caused by royal marriages—by refuge from persecutions—by expatriations arising from revolutions—by the settlement of alien manufacturers; and the names of many of these have often been altered and anglicised, and their posterity have in the bearing thereof become as genuine Englishmen. At other times fictitious names have started up and been perpetuated within our own country, from their adoption, in the removal from one part of the kingdom to another, by the criminal and by the insolvent. Another increment of names arises perhaps from the occasional settlement here of Americans and West Indians; for it is a certain and curious fact that although America was originally peopled from this country, yet it varies very essentially in its nomenclature from that of England."*

Our great antiquary, the illustrious CAMDEN, was among the first who paid any considerable attention

plebeian grade. Hundreds of our old patrician names have survived the wreck of that greatness with which they were once invested. Why, the illustrious names inscribed on the famous Battel-Abbey Roll nearly all exist at this day, after a lapse of eight centuries, if not in the peerage, at least in the cottages of the poor, and often disguised in an orthography which almost defies identification. The reader will find this subject more fully discussed hereafter.

* Vol. I, Notes, p. 404. One reason, among others, that might be assigned for this dissimilarity, is the large intermixture of Dutch, German and French families with those of English extraction.

to the subject of English Surnames. He has an amusing and learned chapter on the subject in his 'Remaines,' occupying, in an early edition, about forty-eight pages of that work. This forms the basis of all that can be said on English family names. After Camden comes Verstegan, who, though less accurate in his knowledge of the subject, gives many useful hints which serve greatly for the purpose of amplification. Among more recent writers, four clergymen, the Rev. Dr. Pegge, the Rev. Mark Noble, the Rev. E. Duke, and the Rev. G. Oliver, have each added something new in illustration of the subject. It seems that various other antiquaries, whose productions have never seen the light, have been labourers in the same field. In Collet's 'Relics of Literature,' 1823, it is stated that,

"Mr. Cole, the antiquary, was very industrious in collecting names, and in one of his volumes of MSS. he says, he had the intention, some time or other, of making a list of such as were more particularly striking and odd, in order to form the foundation of an Essay upon the subject. A friend of the present writer has gone much farther, and has collected several thousand rare names, which he has partly classified."

The late Mr. Haslewood also appears to have done something of the same kind. He had a most extensive collection, which was disposed of at the sale of his library, but which I have not been able to trace to its final destination.

There are two manuscripts on Surnames in the Harleian collection. The first, No. 4056, 'Origin of Surnames,' is loosely written upon seven pages. It is a mere abstract from Camden, with scarcely anything additional, except a paragraph in which the writer differs from that author (as it will be seen that I also do), with respect to the precise date of the introduction of Surnames into England. The second MS. No. 4630, 'The original or beginning of Surnames,' is likewise from Camden, and has only a single original paragraph: of this I have availed myself at the proper place. Both MSS. form only portions of the volumes in which they occur.

Some years since, the Rev. George Oliver, of Grimsby, announced that he was preparing for the press a work on Surnames. This intention has not, I believe, been carried into effect. Judging from his able communication on the subject to the 'Gentleman's Magazine,'* we cannot but regret the abandonment of his design. From that communication I shall take the liberty of making an extract, which, while it expresses precisely my own views, will also serve as an apology for any incorrect conclusions I may have arrived at in the course of these volumes.

"To account for, and accurately to class, the whole circle of Surnames which at present abound

* For 1830, i, 298.

in the world, would probably exceed the capacity of the most talented individual, unless his whole and undivided attention were devoted to its study and developement; and it is to be feared that the effect might appear greatly disproportionate to the means employed. In this respect the theory of surnames bears an affinity to the doctrine of fluxions, without the advantage of equal utility; for as a knowledge of algebra, geometry, logarithms, and infinite series, is equally and indispensably necessary to a right understanding of fluxions; so, to enter fully into the theory of surnames, an intimate acquaintance with history and antiquities,—dead and living languages,—the state of society and manners in all ages and nations,—localities and peculiarities,—national and family connexions,—the passions and prejudices of human nature,—the cant words and technical phrases of every description of men,—is absolutely essential; else the anxious theorist will be at a loss to comprehend the origin of many uncouth names, or the relation they bear to each other, diversified as they are by a succession of shades and tints which are almost imperceptible; and he will find it difficult to determine with undeviating accuracy whether many of the names he investigates be primitive, derivative, or contingent; or to trace them through all the devious and uncertain etymologies in which they are imbedded and entwined.”

Having thus mentioned what my predecessors have done, it may be expected that I should give some account of my own humble labours. But as they are before the reader, I shall content myself with borrowing the words of Verstegan : “ Because men are naturally desirous to know as much as they may, and are much pleased to understand of their own offspring [descent] which by their Surnames may well be discerned, if they be Surnames of continuance, *I have, herein, as near as I can, endeavoured myself to give the courteous reader satisfaction.*”

And, as I have been actuated by this desire, I deem it but justice to myself to state, that if I have assigned to any name a meaning that is little complimentary to the persons who happen to bear it, it has been the farthest from my intention to insult their feelings. So little has this been my wish or my endeavour, that I have, on the contrary, made it one of my chief objects to investigate the etymology of many names which have generally been considered to imply something low or disgraceful, and have proved, satisfactorily I trust, that they mean nothing that their possessors have the slightest reason to be ashamed of. Thus, while I have “filched” no one of his “good name,” I have, I hope, been so happy as to make many a person upon better terms with his own appellation—which he may hitherto have considered (etymologically) anything but a *good* one—than he has ever been before.

After all, "What's in a NAME?" "for neither the good names do grace the bad, neither doe evill names disgrace the good. If names are to be accounted good or bad, in all countries both good and bad haue bin of the same Surnames which as they participate one with the other in glory, so sometimes in shame. Therefore for ancestors, parentage, and *names*, as Seneca said, let every man say, *Vix ea nostra voco*. Time hath intermingled and confused all, and wee are come all to this present by successive variable descents from high and low; or as hee saith more plainely, the low are descended from the high, and, contrariwise, the high from the low."*

The present Edition of this work contains nearly three times as much matter as the first, and about double that of the second. The general arrangement is nearly that of the former editions, but every chapter has been materially enlarged, and several new chapters have been added. These additions, coupled with the rejection of whatever hypotheses formerly advanced I have found untenable, almost constitute the present edition a new work. Proceeding upon the principle—"facile est inventis addere," my 'lyttel boke' has become a somewhat large one—the largest,

* Camden.

I think I may say, that has yet appeared upon the subject of proper names. It is also the only one of any considerable extent exclusively devoted to family nomenclature.

This extension will explain itself to those readers who have honoured my former editions with a perusal. I have not forgotten the venerable adage, that ‘a great book is a great evil ;’ but the continual occurrence of names heretofore unknown or unnoticed, and the extensive correspondence before alluded to, have almost inevitably conducted to this result. That my additional lucubrations may meet with the same indulgent reception as the former ones have done, is all that I can reasonably expect or desire.

I cannot but anticipate disappointment, on the part of numerous readers, at the non-appearance of their names in these volumes. The immense scope of the subject must be my only apology. A vast multitude of names must necessarily have escaped my notice, and a large number have baffled all attempts on my part to give a reasonable account of their origin. Although it is quite true that “he teaches well who teaches *all*,” yet is the sentiment of the Greek philosopher* no less so : “As it is the commendation of a good huntsman to find game in a wide wood, so *it is no imputation if he hath not caught all.*”

* Plato.

In conclusion ; I should be guilty of great ingratitude, were I to omit to offer my sincerest thanks to those gentlemen who have rendered me valuable assistance in the production of these volumes. And first, my special acknowledgments are due to my intelligent and worthy publisher, Mr. John Russell Smith, who has spared no pains in placing within my reach many valuable works, to which I could not otherwise have had convenient access. To Charles Clark, Esq., of Great-Totham Hall, I am indebted for a list of upwards of 1500 of the most singular surnames in existence, which were collected by that gentleman, and with many of which this publication is enriched. The reference to the two manuscripts in the British Museum I owe to the Rev. George C. Tomlinson, rector of Staughton in Huntingdonshire, whose polite and unsolicited kindness entitles him to my warmest acknowledgments.

Thus much as regards the original edition, which, on its publication in 1842, immediately attracted the attention of those directors of the public taste, the Reviewers, whose notices of my humble performance were, upon the whole, most flattering. My thanks are especially due to the conductors of the 'Literary Gazette' for the handsome manner in which they threw open the columns of their valuable Journal, in ten or twelve of its numbers, to the discussion of the subject of this volume. The letters bearing the signature of B. A. Oxon. were of a peculiarly in-

teresting character, and I was fortunately enabled to open a correspondence with the author, E. J. VERNON, Esq., a gentleman of extensive erudition and etymological skill. To him, as a trifling expression of my sense of the value of his communications, I had the pleasure of dedicating the second edition. With him I took much 'sweet counsel' upon the subject of our mutual researches, but alas! that remorseless Tyrant, who regards neither youth, nor virtue, nor talents, proved both the falsity and the truth of his own ambiguous motto—'VER-non semper viret'—and laid him low ere yet he had reached the summer of his days. He died in July, 1847, after a brief illness; and in him society has lost a member of unspeakable worth, and the world of letters a most promising labourer.*

To the Reverend STEPHEN ISAACSON, M.A., I am greatly indebted, both for numerous anecdotes and suggestions, and for copious lists of surnames of remarkable character.

I have likewise received considerable aid from the Reverend F. O. MORRIS, M. A., vicar of Nafferton, who has furnished me with several lists of names.

GEORGE MONKLAND, Esq., of Bath, forwarded me a highly curious classified list of surnames made,

* His only published work is 'A Guide to the Anglo-Saxon Tongue' (London, 1846), one of the best treatises of the kind extant; but I can state that he was engaged for the last two or three years of his life in collecting materials for one or more volumes of a philological character.

like the others, with the most scrupulous attention to their authenticity. Of all these I have largely availed myself.

Further names and illustrations have also been obligingly contributed by J. O. Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A.; R. Almack, Esq., F.S.A., of Melford; E. Pretty, Esq., of Northampton; W. H. Blaauw, Esq., M.A., &c.; Jabez Allies, Esq., F.S.A.; Clement Ferguson, Esq., of Dublin; North Ludlow Beamish, Esq., F.R.S., &c. of Cork; Miss Twynam; John Sykes, Esq., of Doncaster; J. H. Fennell, Esq., &c. &c. &c. The Hon. and Rev. C. W. Bradley, M.A., of Connecticut, U. S., most politely transmitted me a copy of his privately-printed brochure mentioned below.

The following works have been consulted :

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Verstegan's "*RESTITUTION of decayed Intelligence* in Antiquities concerning Our Nation." 1605.

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"*PROLUSIONES HISTORICÆ, or the Halle of John Halle*; by the Rev. Edward Duke, M.A., F.S.A., &c." Vol. I, Essay I.

"*A HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE OF ARMS*; with a *Preliminary Dissertation* relative to the different Orders in England since the Norman Conquest. By the Rev. Mark Noble, F.A.S. of L. and E., Rector of Barming in Kent, &c." 1804.

- "THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE," 1772. Several Essays, by Dr. Pegge, under the signature of T. Row (The Rector of Whittington); and many subsequent volumes of the same periodical.
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- "ESSAI HISTORIQUE ET PHILOSOPHIQUE SUR LES NOMS D'HOMMES, DE PEUPLES, ET DE LIEUX, &c. Par Eusèbe Salverte." Two vols. 8vo. Paris, 1824.
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- "ON THE NAMES, SURNAMES, AND NICKNAMES OF THE ANGLO-SAXONS. By J. M. Kemble, Esq." 8vo, pp. 22. 1846.
- "A DICTIONARY OF ARCHAIC AND PROVINCIAL WORDS, &c. By J. O. Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S." Two vols. 8vo. 1847.
- "THREE LETTERS ON NORMAN PROPER NAMES. By M. de Gerville." In 'Mémoires de la Soc. des Antiquaires de Normandie,' vol. xiii, p. 265 et seq.

Lewes, March, 1849.



AN ESSAY
ON
ENGLISH SURNAMES.

CHAPTER I.

OF PROPER NAMES OF PERSONS IN GENERAL.

—
“ Notre nom propre c’est nous-mêmes.”
—



UR proper name (observes the learned and elegant Salverte) is ourself—in our thoughts, and in the thoughts of those who know us; and nothing can separate it from our existence.

A name, however apparently insignificant, instantly recalls to our remembrance the man, his personal appearance, his moral attributes, or some remarkable event with which he is identified. The few syllables constituting it suffice to reopen the fountain of a bereaved mother’s tears—to cover with blushes the forehead of the maiden who believes her secret about to be revealed—to agitate the heart of the lover—to light up in the eyes of an enemy the fire of rage—and to

awaken in the breast of one separated by distance from his friend the liveliest emotions of hope or of regret.* "This energetic power," remarks the same writer, "distinguishes the Proper Noun from the common substantive." It suggests no vague idea, but enforces one that is positive and distinct.

"Our proper name is ourself;"—without it we have not more than half an existence. Hence in the earliest and the rudest states of social life every human being received a name. I am aware that Herodotus and Pliny, and one or two modern writers, mention some barbarous races who bear no distinctive appellations; but a little reflection before making the statement would have convinced them of the impossibility of the existence of language without proper names; for in the most degraded condition of human existence, the occasional necessity of speaking of absent persons would involve the use of some epithet, and that epithet would be to all intents and purposes a Proper Name. The father of a family would impose a peculiar appellation upon each of his children, and they in return would give him a name by which to distinguish him from other men. In like manner, a name would be affixed to the superior power which was the object of their adoration or their superstitious dread; and all names so imposed must of necessity have been significant.

As a principle so immediately connected with the design of this Essay, I repeat—that ALL NAMES WERE ORIGINALLY SIGNIFICANT; although in the course of ages the meaning of most of them may have lapsed from the memory of mankind. It is most unphilosophical to arrive at the opposite conclusion. Invention

* Salverte.

without motives and without principles is as difficult in relation to this subject as to any other.*

If the names of common objects were not dictated by mere caprice, how can we imagine that those of persons and of places had so vague a beginning. Let any one call to remembrance the names of his nearest friends and neighbours, and he will immediately recognise in them an identity with the names of the most familiar objects, as Wood, Church, Hall, Tree; while others are epithets, as Wise, Good, Long, Little; and a third class represent localities, as York, Chichester, Forest, Heath. He will then scarcely bring his mind to doubt that these, in their primitive application to persons, had some connexion with those objects, epithets, and localities respectively; and if he thinks wisely, he will hardly reject as destitute of sense or meaning the still larger number of personal appellatives which convey no distinct idea to his mind.

It is matter to me of no little surprise, that among civilized nations the generality even of educated persons should be so incurious as they are on this subject. They seem indeed in this respect behind many of the barbarous tribes of both continents, who evince a desire with respect to a stranger coming amongst them, either to ascertain the meaning of his name in his own language, and to translate it, or to apply to him a significant appellation borrowed from their own dialect. From numerous anecdotes which might be adduced to prove this remark I will select one or two.

The Sultan of Muscat taking for his physician an Italian gentleman, demanded by what name he was called. "Vincenzo," was the reply. "I don't understand you," said the monarch; "tell me the meaning

* Salverte.

of the word in Arabic." The Italian translated it by 'Mansour,' *victorious*; and the prince, charmed with the happy presage attached to this designation, uniformly styled him *Cheik Mansour*.

A chief of the Delaware tribe once asked the meaning of the name of Colonel Sprout, a gentleman of extraordinary stature. He was told that it signified a bud or sprig. "No," replied the Indian, "he cannot be a *sprig*—he is the *tree itself*!"*

If any further arguments are necessary to prove that Proper Names were originally significant, let us refer to the uniform practice of nautical discoverers with respect to names of places. Do they ever give to a rock, an island, a promontory, or a river an appellation without a meaning? It requires but a moderate share of etymological knowledge to ascertain the origin of the greater part of the names of localities in any given country with whose ancient and modern dialects the inquirer is acquainted. A learned German, M. Frederick Schlegel, has thus found in nearly all the proper names of the Hindoos significant epithets; and any one tolerably skilled in Anglo-Saxon, old French, and the English of the Middle Ages, might in like manner explain probably two thirds of our own proper appellatives both of places and persons. All the names of the Hebrews, as Salverte remarks, had a sense so marked that their influence is strongly felt in the literature of that people. The same observation will apply with considerable force to the Arabs, the Greeks, and the Teutonic nations. Among uncivilized tribes the same significant force attaches to their personal nomenclature; and the American Indians, the Koriacs, the Marquesans, and the Kamtschatdales may be referred

* Salverte.

to as never imposing a name with the meaning of which they are unacquainted.

It is an inquiry not devoid of some interest, "What would the annals of mankind and the records of biography be if people had never borne proper names?" A mere chaos of undefined incidents, an unintelligible mass of facts, without symmetry or beauty, and without any interest for after ages: "sine nomine homo non est." Indeed, without names, mankind would have wanted what is perhaps the greatest stimulus of which the mind is susceptible, namely, the love of fame; and, consequently, many of the mightiest achievements in every department of human endeavour would have been lost to the world.

In the first ages of the world a single name was sufficient for each individual—"nomen olim apud omnes ferè gentes simplex;" and that name was generally *invented* for the person, in allusion to the circumstances attending his birth, or to some personal quality he possessed, or which his parents fondly hoped he might in future possess. The writings of Moses and some other books of the Old Testament furnish many proofs of this remark. This rule seems to have uniformly prevailed in all the nations of antiquity concerning which we have any records, in the earliest periods of their history. In Egypt we find persons of distinction using only one name, as Pharaoh, Potiphar; in Canaan, Abraham, Isaac; in Greece, Diomedes, Ulysses; in Rome, Romulus, Remus; in Britain, Bran, Caradoc, &c.

Among most nations the imposition of names has been connected with religious rites. Among the Jews circumcision was the rite, as baptism is in the Christian church. The Greeks commonly named their infants on the tenth day after birth, on which occasion a hos-

pitiable entertainment was given by the parents to their friends, and sacrifices were offered to the gods. Thus in the ‘Birds’ of Aristophanes we read :

——— Θύω τὴν δεκάτην ταύτης ἐγὼ,
Καὶ τῶνομόν’ ὥσπερ παιδίῳ νῦν δὲ θέμην.

“On the tenth day I offered sacrifice,
And as a child’s, her name imposed.”

The Romans gave names to their male children on the ninth day, and to girls on the eighth. The ninth day was called *dies lustricus*, or the day of purification, when religious ceremonies were practised. When the Persians name a child a religious service is performed, and five names are written by the father upon as many slips of paper, and laid upon a copy of the Koran. The first chapter of that sacred book is then read, and the slip bearing the future name of the child is drawn at a venture.

The sources of Proper Names are exceedingly numerous as well as various. In very remote times personal appellations marked some wish or prediction on the part of parents. To select *fortunate* names—the ‘bona nomina’ of Cicero, and the ‘fausta nomina’ of Tacitus—was ever a matter of solicitude, since it became a popular maxim, ‘Bonum nomen, bonum omen.’ “Plautus thought it quite enough to damn a man that he bore the name of Lyco, which is said to signify a greedy wolf, and Livy calls the name Atrius Umber ‘abominandi ominis nomen,’—a name of horrible portent.”*

“Ex bono nomine oritur bona præsumptio”—from a good name arises a good anticipation, says Panormitan;

* Nares, *Heraldic Anomalies*.

and Plato in the same spirit advises all people to select happy names,—a recommendation which our novelists and dramatists are ever ready to follow with respect to their heroes. Victor, Probus, Faustus, Felix, and all similar appellatives, must in the first instances have been employed to mark the wishes of affectionate parents, though the subsequent lives of the objects of those wishes often gave the lie to their names. We can hardly suppose that had the parents of Alexander been gifted with prescience they would have honoured that “murderer of millions” with a name signifying ‘the helper of mankind.’

Many of the earlier Hebrew names were composed of the first words uttered by the mother, the father, or some other person present at the instant of the birth. The dying Rachel called her infant ‘Benoni,’ the Son of my Sorrow, but Jacob gave him the name of ‘Benjamin,’ the Son of my Strength. Incidents connected with the birth or early infancy of children also furnished many names, as the earlier books of the Old Testament sufficiently prove.

Complexion and other personal qualities often gave rise to names, as Pyrrhus, ruddy; Macros, tall; Niger, black; Paulus, little. The *order* of birth originated others, as Quintus, the fifth, Septimus, the seventh; while some had reference to the *time* of nativity, as Martius, Maius.

All the foregoing classes of names might have been appropriately bestowed by parents upon their offspring; but there is a very numerous class with the imposition of which they can have had nothing to do, and which we may suppose parental partiality would fain have prevented. I allude to those names which reflect upon personal blemishes or moral obliquities, and which we

should now call nick-names or sobriquets, such as Γρυπὸς, eagle-nose; Φυσκων, gorge-belly; Calvus, bald; Cocles, one-eyed; Flaccus, flap-eared; Fronto, heavy-browed. These, from their very nature, must have been applied to adults, and by others than their parents or friends. Neither were the complimentary names, Καλλίνικος, 'renowned for victory,' Φιλάδελφος, 'a lover of his brethren,' Εὐεργέτης, 'a benefactor,' &c. &c., conferred in very early life.

Thus much for single names: in process of time the love of imitation led persons to adopt names which had been, and were, borne by others; and in order to obviate the inconvenience resulting from the difficulty of distinguishing contemporaries designated by a common appellative, some second name was necessary. The most obvious mode of distinction would be by the use of the father's name or *patronymic*, and this is the earliest approach to the modern system of nomenclature. Caleb the son of Jephunneh, Joshua the son of Nun, are early examples; so also Ικαρος του Δαιδαλου, Δαιδαλος του Ευπαλμου—Icarus the son of Dædalus, Dædalus the son of Eupalmus; and it is worthy of observation that this primitive practice has descended to modern times in such designations as William Fitz-Hugh, Stephen Isaacson.

Sometimes the adjunct expressed the country or profession, sometimes some excellence or blemish of the bearer, as Herodotus of 'Halicarnassus,' Polycletes 'the Sculptor,' Diogenes 'the Cynic,' Dionysius 'the Tyrant.'

The Romans had a very complete system of nomenclature. The whole commonwealth was divided into various *clans* called 'Gentes,' each of which was subdivided into several families ('Familix'). Thus in the

Gens Cornelia were included the families of the Scipiones, Lentuli, Cethegi, Dolabellæ, Cinnæ, Syllæ, &c. It is doubtful, however, whether these familiæ were descended from a common ancestor, though they had religious rites in common. To mark the different gentes and familiæ, and to distinguish the individuals of the same race, they had usually three names, viz. the 'Prænomen,' the 'Nomen,' and the 'Cognomen.'*

The Prænomen denoted the individual, the Nomen marked the Gens, and the Cognomen distinguished the Familia. Thus in Publius Cornelius Scipio, *Publius* corresponded to our John, Thomas, William; *Cornelius* pointed out the 'clan' or 'gens;' and *Scipio* conveyed the information that the individual in question belonged to that particular family of the Cornelii which descended from the pious Scipio, who, from his practice of leading about his aged and blind father, thus figuratively became his *scipio* or staff.

Persons of the highest eminence, particularly military commanders, sometimes received a fourth name, or 'Agnomen,' often commemorative of conquests, and borrowed from the proper name of the hostile country, as Coriolanus, Africanus, Asiaticus, Germanicus, &c. In general, only two of the names were used—frequently but one. In addressing a person, the prænomen was generally employed, since it was peculiar to citizens, for slaves had no prænomen.† Hence Horace says, "delicate ears love the prænomen"—

————— gaudent prænominē molles
Auriculæ.‡

Sat. ii. 5, 32.

* Adam's Rom. Antiq.

† Adam.

‡ In Germany at the present day the lower ranks of society are reminded of their inferiority, by having the definite article prefixed to their

Two brothers sometimes bore the same prænomen. So in England, some centuries since, two brothers occasionally had the same Christian name; and Salverte mentions an enthusiastic Scot, a partizan of the fallen house of Stuart, who gave four of his sons the name of Charles-Edward!

The Romans borrowed the form of their names from the older natives of Italy, and particularly from the Etruscans. In all those parts of Italy which the Greeks had not penetrated, the personages quoted in history anteriorly to the conquest of their country by the Romans bore family names, preceded or followed by an individual denomination; and, among the Etruscans, it is clear from Passeri,* that there existed the nomen, prænomen, and cognomen, as among the Romans, who adopted not only their mode of nomenclature, but also a great number of their *names* themselves. Passeri found the names of Horatius, Livius, Aulus, Marcus, Publius, Severus, and many of a similar kind in Etruscan inscriptions. Hence the difficulty of finding a satisfactory etymology for many of the Roman appellatives—words of venerable antiquity, of which those who bore them knew as little the meaning as ourselves.

It has been customary in nearly all ages to apply to monarchs some distinguishing epithet, usually termed a *Surname*, although that word may be fairly objected to as tending to confusion, by leading the uninformed to suppose it an actual ‘nomen’ or *hereditary* designation. Tarquinius Superbus, at Rome, Ptolemy Philadelphos,

Christian names: e. g. “Wo ist mein bedienter *der* Georg?” Where is my valet *the* George?—*Salverte*. In Scotland, on the other hand, the same prefix betokens respect, and is applied to the heads of clans, as ‘*the* Chisholm.’

* Salv. i. 189.

in Egypt, Henry the Fowler, in Germany, William the Lion, in Scotland, Charles the Bald, in France, and our own Richard Cœur de Lion, may all have merited the appellations bestowed upon them; but they partake more of the character of *sobriquets* than of surnames, in the modern meaning of the term. In most cases, too, they were posthumously applied. Speaking of this subject, Archdeacon Nares, the humorous author of *‘Heraldic Anomalies,’* remarks:

“There are some significant titles, names, and attributes, to which I have no objection, as for instance, Alfred *the Great*, for great he was; but as to Canute *the Great* I doubt: his speech to his courtiers on the sea-shore had certainly something sublime in it, and seems to bespeak the union of royalty and wisdom, but Voltaire will not allow that he was great in any other respect than that he performed great acts of cruelty. Edmund *Iron-side*, I suppose, was correct enough, if we did but understand the figure properly (for as to his really having an *iron side*, I conclude no one fancies it to have been so, though there is no answering for vulgar credulity). Harold *Harefoot* betokened, no doubt, a personal blemish or some extraordinary swiftness of foot. Among the kings of Norway there was a *Bare-foot*! William *Rufus* was probably quite correct, as indicative of his *red* head of hair, or rather head of red hair. Henry the First was, I dare say, for those times, a *Beau Clerc*, or able scholar. Richard the First might very properly be called, by a figure of speech, *Cœur de Lion*, and his brother John quite as properly, though to his shame literally, rather than figuratively, *Lack-land*. Edward *Long-shanks* cannot be disputed, since a sight was obtained of his body not very long ago, but at the least 467 years after his

death, and which, from a letter in my possession, written by the President of the Antiquarian Society, who measured the body, appeared to be at that remote period six feet two inches long.”*

The same writer, speaking of the adjunct used by the Norman William, assigns to it the definition of Spelman, which differs from that in general acceptance: “Conquestor dicitur quia Anglia *conquisivit*, i. e. *acquisivit* (purchased) non quod subegit; . . . here agreeing,” he humorously adds, “with the good old women who attended William’s birth, and who having quite a struggle with the new-born brat to get out of his clenched fist a parcel of straws he happened to catch hold of (his mother, perhaps, being literally in the *straw*), made them say in the way of prophecy, that he would be a great acquirer.”

* Heraldic Anom. vol. i, p. 107.



CHAPTER II.

OF SURNAMES.

“ Nous affirmerons que l'étude des noms propres n'est point sans intérêt pour la morale, l'organisation politique, la législation, et l'histoire même de la civilisation.”—SALVERTE.

N the present brief chapter it is my intention to refer to the usages of several modern nations in relation to second or family names, usually designated SURNAMES. A remark or two on the definition and etymology of that term may be premised.

Our great lexicographer, Dr. Johnson, gives the definition as follows :

“ SURNAME : The name of a family; the name which one has over and above the Christian name.”

Until about the middle of the last century it was sometimes written ‘ Surname.’ Whether this variation originated in the lax orthography of other times, or whether it was adopted to express a slight difference of meaning, I will not undertake to decide. Some writers have held the latter opinion, and defined ‘ Surname’ as “ nomen patris additum proprio,” and ‘ Sur-name’ as “ nomen supra nomen additum.” *Mac-Allan,*

Fitzherbert, *Ap Evan*, and *Stephenson* would accordingly be sir or 'sire'-names, equivalent to the son of Allan, of Herbert, of Evan, and of Stephen.

Of 'Sur'-names, Du Cange says, they were at first written "not in a direct line *after* the Christian name, but *above* it, *between the lines*," and hence they were called in Latin SUPRANOMINA, in Italian SUPRANOME, and in French SURNOMS,—“over-names.”

Those who contend for the non-identity of the two words, assert that although every Sir-name is a Sur-name, every Sur-name is not a Sir-name—a question which I shall not tarry to discuss.*

The causes which led to the adoption of family names in the different countries of Europe are ably stated by Salverte, and I may have occasion to refer to them hereafter. For our present purpose, it will be sufficient to observe that their adoption has generally marked the arrival of a people at a certain point in civilization. We have seen that all names were originally single, and that second names were imposed for the sake of distinguishing from each other the persons who bore a common appellative. After the gradual conversion of the European states to the Christian faith, the old Pagan names were generally laid aside. New names, borrowed from Scripture or from early church history, were imposed at the baptism of the converts. In particular localities, of which some saint was supposed to have the peculiar guardianship, great numbers of persons received his or her name; and great inconvenience must have been the result. When, in 1387, Ladislaus Jagellon, duke of Lithuania, became a Chris-

* See on this subject the *Literary Gazette* for Nov. 1842, the correspondence of B. A. Oxon, and G., arising out of a notice of the first edition of this work.

tian, and king of Poland, he persuaded his ancient subjects to abjure, after his own example, their national faith. The nobles and the warriors were baptized separately; but the plebeian candidates for the sacred rite were divided into many companies, and the priests conferred it at one time upon a whole company, and gave the same name to all the individuals composing that company. In the first baptism, all the men were designated Peter, and all the women Catherine; in the second, all became Pauls and Margarets!*

In the countries into which Christianity had been introduced many centuries earlier than the event just referred to, that civilization which is ever the concomitant or the consequence of it had rendered second names to a great extent necessary. In very early times, accordingly, sobriquets and other marks of distinction were frequently used; and towards the close of the tenth century and the commencement of the eleventh, when the number of persons bore a great disproportion to the number of personal names, it was found necessary to add in all public acts a distinctive appellation for the sake of identifying individuals. Such names figure in great numbers in the records of all the kingdoms of Christendom up to the fourteenth century.† By degrees, this means of remedying the confusion became insufficient. Those sobriquets which described physical and moral qualities, habits, professions, the place of birth, &c., might be imposed upon many who bore the same name of baptism, and thus the inconvenience was rather augmented than diminished: a total change in the system of names became indispensable—and *hereditary Surnames* in most countries became general.

* Salv. i. 223.

† Salvete.

We have seen that the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans in very early periods used the *patronymic* or Father-Name as a second designation, either with an appropriate termination or with some prefix expressive of the filial relation. This has also been the practice of many modern nations. Thus in SPAIN, in the twelfth century, the son of Gonçale, who is regarded as the founder of the principality of Castile, was called Fernand Gonçalez, and his son, in turn, received the name of Garcia Fernandez.

The HIGHLANDERS of Scotland employed the *sire-name* with MAC, and hence our *Macdonalds* and *Macartys*, meaning respectively the son of Donald and of Arthur. The IRISH had the practice (probably derived from the patriarchal ages) of prefixing Oy or O', signifying *grandson*,* as O'Hara, O'Neale; a form still retained in many Hibernian surnames. Many of the Irish also use *Mac*. According to the following distich, the titles *Mac* and *O'* are not merely what the logicians call accidents, but altogether essential to the very being and substance of an Irishman :—

“ Per MAC atque O, tu veros cognoscis Hibernos,
His duobus demptis, nullus Hibernus adest.”

which has been translated—

“ By Mac and O,
You'll always know
True Irishmen they say;
For if they lack
Both O and MAC,
No Irishmen are they.”†

* It is related in the *Encyclopædia Perthensis* that an antiquated Scottish dame used to make it a matter of boasting that she had trod the world's stage long enough to possess *one hundred Oyes!*

† Notes of a Bookworm.

Among the archives of the corporation of Galway is an order dated 1518, prohibiting any of the Burkes, McWilliams, Kellys, or any other sept, from coming into the town, which at that time was occupied by a race who prided themselves in not being Irishmen, and further declaring that "neither O ne MAC shoulde strutte ne swagger through the streetes of Galway."*

The old NORMANS prefixed to their names the word '*Fitz*,' a corruption of FILS, and that derived from the Latin FILIUS; as *Fitz-Hamon*, *Fitz-Gilbert*. The peasantry of RUSSIA, who are some centuries behind the same class in other countries, affix the termination '*witz*' (which seems to have some affinity to the Norman *Fitz*) to their names; thus, Peter *Paulowitz*, for Peter the son of Paul. The POLES employ *sky* in the same sense, as James *Petrowsky*, James the son of Peter; and the BISCAYANS adopt a similar method.†

Until a comparatively recent period no surnominal adjunct was used in WALES, beyond AP, or son, as David *ap Howell*, Evan *ap Rhys*, Griffith *ap Roger*, John *ap Richard*, now very naturally corrupted into *Powell*, *Price*, *Prodger*, and *Pritchard*. To a like origin may be referred a considerable number of the surnames beginning with P and B now in use in England, amongst which may be mentioned *Price*, *Pumphrey*, *Parry*, *Probert*, *Probyn*, *Pugh*, *Penry*; *Bevan*, *Bithell*, *Barry*, *Benyon*, and *Bowers*. A more antient form than AP is HAB. This or VAP constantly occurs in charters of the time of Henry the Sixth. It was not

* Hardiman's Galway, quoted in the Journal of the Brit. Arch. Assoc. vol. i, p. 98.

† The most singular deviation from the general rule is found among the Arabians, who use their father's name without a fore-name, as Aven Pace, Aven Rois, the son of Pace, the son of Rois.

unusual even but a century back, to hear of such combinations as Evan-ap-Griffith-ap-David-ap-Jenkin, and so on to the seventh or eighth generation, so that an individual carried his pedigree in his name. The following curious description of a Welshman occurs 15 Hen. VII: "Morgano Philip alias dicto Morgano vap David vap Philip." The church of Llangollen in Wales is said to be dedicated to St. Collen-ap-Gwynnawg-ap-Clyndawg-ap-Cowrda-ap-Caradoc-Freichfras-ap-Llynn-Merim-ap-Einion-Yrth-ap-Cunedda-Wledig,* a name that casts that of the Dutchman, *Inkvervankodsdor-spanckinkadrachdern*, into the shade.

To burlesque this ridiculous species of nomenclature, some seventeenth-century wag described *cheese* as being

"Adam's own cousin-german by its birth,
Ap-Curds-ap-Milk-ap-Cow-ap-Grass-ap-Earth!"

The following anecdote was related to me by a native of Wales: "An Englishman, riding one dark night among the mountains, heard a cry of distress, proceeding apparently from a man who had fallen into a ravine near the highway, and, on listening more attentively, heard the words, 'Help, master, help!' in a voice truly Cambrian. 'Help! what, who are you?' inquired the traveller. Jenkin-ap-Griffith-ap-Robin-ap-William-ap-Rees-ap-Evan," was the response. 'Lazy fellows that ye be,' rejoined the Englishman, setting spurs to his horse, 'to lie rolling in that hole, *half a dozen of ye*; why, in the name of common sense, don't ye help *one another* out?'"

This story may have been suggested by a passage occurring in 'Sir John Oldcastle,' a play, printed in 1600, and falsely attributed to Shakspeare:

* Recreative Review, vol. ii. p. 189.

Judge. What bail? What sureties?

Davy. Her cozen ap Rice, ap Evan, ap Morice, ap Morgan, ap Lluellyn, ap Madoc, ap Meredith, ap Griffin, ap Davis, ap Owen, ap Shinkin Jones.

Judge. Two of the most sufficient are enow,

Sheriff. And't please your Lordship, these are all BUT ONE!"

In England, when the *patronymic* was used, the word son was usually affixed, as John Adamson; in Wales, on the contrary, although the staple of the national nomenclature was of this kind, no affix was used, but the paternal name was put in the genitive, as Griffith William's, David John's or Jones, Rees Harry's or Harris. As the *personal* names were few in number, when they became hereditary surnames they were common to so many families, that they were almost useless for the purposes of generic distinction, and this still remains to a great extent the case. A friend, who remembers the Monmouth and Brecon militia about half a century since, informs me that it had at that time no less than thirty-six *John Joneses* upon its muster-roll; and it was at a somewhat later period a matter of notoriety that a large Welsh village was, with the exception of some two or three individuals, entirely populated with *Williamses*.

Even the gentry of Wales bore no hereditary surnames until the time of Henry the Eighth. That monarch, who paid great attention to heraldic matters, strongly recommended the heads of Welsh families to conform to the usage long before adopted by the English, as more consistent with their rank and dignity. Some families accordingly made their existing *sirenames* stationary, while a few adopted the surnames of English families with whom they were allied, as the ancestors of Oliver Cromwell, who thus exchanged Williams

for Cromwell, which thenceforward they uniformly used.*

Having thus glanced at the usages of various nations with respect to second names, let us next trace the history of family names in England.

* Vide Noble's House of Cromwell. Other authentic instances of the adoption of stationary surnames by great families may be found by referring to the following works :

(*Williams* of Abercamlais.) Jones's Brecon, iii. 696.

(*Herbert*, Lord of Blealevenny.) Mon. Ang. 17, 134.

(*Herbert* of Llanowell.) Coxe's Monmouth, 421.

It may be observed that several Norman families who settled in Wales, left their original surnames, and conformed to the mode of the country ; thus the Boleyns took the name of Williams.



CHAPTER III.

HISTORY OF ENGLISH SURNAMES*—ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD.



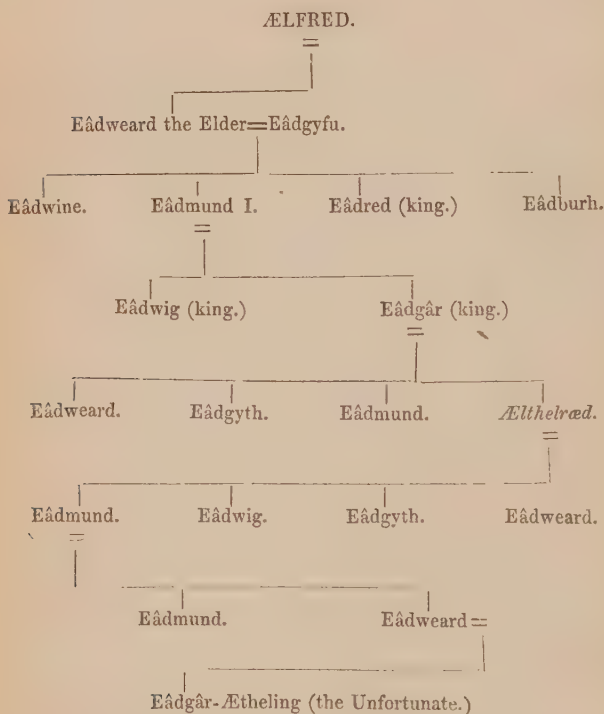
ALTHOUGH our ancestors the Anglo-Saxons had no regular system of family nomenclature resembling that of the Romans, or that which we now possess, there was occasionally among them something like an attempt to show derivation and family relationships by the use of similar *personal* names. "In one family," observes Mr. Kemble, (to whose able paper I am much indebted,)† "we shall find in succession or simultaneously, Wigmund, Wighelm, Wiglâf, Wihstân; or Beornric, Beornmôd, Beornheâh, Beornhelm."

Among several other instances of this practice cited by Mr. Kemble are the following: "Of the seven sons of Æthelfrith, king of Northumberland, five bore names compounded with Os (*semideus*), thus Oslaf, Oslâc, Oswald, Oswin, and Oswidu. In the succession of the same royal family we find the male names, Osfrith, Oswine, Osrîc, Osraed, Oswulf, Osbald, and Osbeorht, and the female name, Osthryth; and some of these are repeated several times.

* The word surname is here employed in a somewhat loose sense, implying in general nothing more than the name borne by an individual, to distinguish him from other persons of the same forename or name of baptism.

† On the Names, Surnames, and Nicknames of the Anglo-Saxons. By J. M. Kemble, Esq. 8vo. pp. 22, 1846.

The subjoined genealogical table shows how strongly this practice was adhered to by the illustrious progeny of Alfred the Great.



The *second names* treated of by Mr. Kemble may be reduced to five general heads.

I. *Those borrowed from the father's name.* "In the year 804, we find, among several Eadberhts in the same court, that one is pointed out as Eâdgâring, or the son of Eâdgâr; among several Æthelheâhs, one is

Esning, or the son of Esne.” In a certain grant we read this description of one—

“qui Leofwine *nomine* et Boudan sunu appellatur *cognomine*.”

‘whose name is Leofwine, and his surname *Boudanson*.’

In a genealogy of the West-Saxon kings, among the Cotton MSS., we find—“Eadgar Eadmunding, Eadmund Eadwarding, Eadweard Ælfreding, Ælfred Awolfing,” &c. upwards, through Woden to “Bedwig Sceafing,” ‘which Scef was Noah’s son,’ and thence to Adam.*

Ing, inge, or inger, we may remark, is found in the sense of ‘progeny’ or ‘offspring,’ in most of the Teutonic languages. *Ing*, in modern German, is a young man, but in a more extended sense signifies a descendant. Wachter derives it from the British *engi*, to produce, bring forth.† Such names as *Dering, Browning, Whiting*, may owe their origin to this expression, and so mean respectively *dear, tawny, and fair* offspring.

II. *Those indicative of title or office*, as Princeps, Dux, Minister, or Pedissequus, in Latin records, and *Pren* (priest), *Biscop* (bishop) in the vernacular.

III. *Those from personal and other characteristics*. Bede, speaking of the two missionary apostles of the old Saxons, says—

“And as they were both of one devotion, so they both had one name, for each of them was called Hewald, yet with this distinction, taken from the colour of their hair, that one was styled Black Hewald, and the other White Hewald.”

White, Black, Red, Bald, &c. were common as second or descriptive names, as were also Good, Cunning, Proud, &c.

* Reliquiæ Antiquæ, ii. 172.

† Vide Bosworth, A.-S. Dict.

In the Life of Hereward the Saxon, one of the last of his race who withstood the Norman despots, we find several such names as—

MARTIN WITH THE LIGHT FOOT, from his agility.*

SIWARD THE RED, from his complexion.

LEOFRIC THE MOWER, from his having overcome twenty men with a scythe.

LEOFRIC PRAT, or the cunning.

WULRIC THE BLACK, so named because on one occasion he had blackened his face with charcoal, and in that disguise penetrated unobserved among his enemies, ten of whom he killed with a spear before making his retreat.†

Some of the names of this class were somewhat poetical, as Harald Hâranfôt (Harefoot), Eâdgyfu Swanhals (Edith the Swan-Necked), Eâdmund Iren-sîda (Ironside).

IV. *Nicknames* “not used WITH, but IN PLACE OF, baptismal names.” Several of these denote endearment and affection, and are equivalent to the modern English expressions ‘Darling,’ ‘Duck,’ &c. The meaning of others is so very obscure, as even to conquer the acumen of Mr. Kemble. Simeon of Durham, under the year 799, says—

“Eodem anno *Brorda* Merciorum princeps, qui et *Hildegils* vocatur, defunctus est.”

Now Hildegils, it appears, was the baptismal name of the magnate, and BRORDA only an alias or nickname, which had usurped its place, in consequence of the military prowess of the bearer, Brorda meaning ‘One that hath the Sword’—a name belonging to the same

* *Lightfoot* still exists as a surname.

† Wright’s *Essays on the Literature, &c. of the Middle Ages*, ii, 101, &c.

category as the Longespée and Strongbow of more recent times. Another eminent Anglo-Saxon, distinguished alike for greatness of stature and elevated qualities of mind, bore the sobriquet of *Mucel* or 'Great,' which he employed in a legal way, as "Ego Mucel, dux, consensi, &c." His baptismal name was Æthelred, and had he lived some ages later, he would probably have been known as *Ethelred Michel*, in the same way that the Norman Gilbert de Aquila, after the Conquest of 1066, was designated by this very epithet in conjunction with his baptismal name.

V. *Those taken from the place of residence*, with the particle *æt* or *AT*, as 'Eadmær æt Burhhâm.'

The precise period at which such second names as those above enumerated first became *stationary*, or, in other words, began to descend hereditarily, it would at this distance of time be impossible to show. It is probable, however, that some of them passed through several generations, according to the practice of our own times, at a date considerably earlier than our antiquaries are disposed to admit. This remark would peculiarly apply to those of the fifth or *local* class, since the son, then as now, often became proprietor of the same estate as that from which his father borrowed his second name; and it would, I think, be unreasonable to decide that surnames of the first or *patronymical* kind, such as Herdington, Swainson,* Cerdicson, did not pass occasionally from father to son, as well as

* This name is probably Danish. In the Confessor's time it was written *Sweynsen*, but under the Normans it became *Fitz-Swain*, and, ultimately, in more English times, *Swainson*. 'Swain Fitz Swain' occurs in Norman times as the grantor, to Sallay abbey in Ribblesdale, of lands at 'Swain-side.'

our more recent Thompson and Williamson. Camden and others concur in the opinion that hereditary surnames were not known in England before the Norman Conquest; yet I hope I shall not be deemed guilty of presumption if, by and by, I offer a few suggestions in support of the opinion that they were not altogether unknown before that epoch.

Camden says, “about the year of our Lord 1000, (that we may not minute out the time) surnames became to be taken up in France; and in England *about the time* of the Conquest, or else a *very little* before, vnder King Edward the Confessor, who was all Frenchified. This will seem strange to some Englishmen and Scottishmen, whiche, like the Arcadians, thinke their surnames as antient as the moone, or at the least to reach many an age beyond the Conquest.* But they which thinke it most strange, (I speake vnder correction,) I doubt they will hardly finde *any surname which descended to posterity* before that time: neither haue they seene (I feare) *any deede or donation* BEFORE THE CONQUEST, *but subsigned with crosses and single names* WITHOUT surnames, in this manner: ✠ Ego Eadredus confirmaui. ✠ Ego Edmundus corroboraui. ✠ Ego Sigarius conclusi. ✠ Ego Olfstanus consoli-
daui, &c.

Our great antiquary declares that both he and divers of his friends had “pored and pusled vpon many an old record and evidence” for the purpose of finding hereditary surnames before the Conquest, without suc-

* Buchanan asserts that the family of Douglas have borne that name from the reign of Solvathius, king of Scotland, the year 770; and that one Sir William Douglas of Scotland entered into the service of Charlemagne. He settled in Tuscany, and was the great ancestor of the Douglasii of that country.

cess; what then would he have said to a document like the following, containing the substance of a grant from Thorold of Buckenhale, sheriff of Lincolnshire, of the manor of Spalding, to Wulgate, abbot of Croyland, dated 1051, the 10th year of Edward the Confessor, and fifteen years before the Conquest?

"I have given to God and St. Guthlac of Croyland, &c. all my manor situate near the parochial church of the same town, with all the lands and tenements, rents and services, &c. which I hold in the same manor, &c. with all the appendants; viz. Colgrin, *my reeve*, (*præpositum meum*), and his whole sequell, with all the goods and chattels which he hath in the same town, fields and marshes. Also Harding, *the smith*, (*fabrum*), and his whole sequell. Also Lefstan, *the carpenter*, (*carpentarium*), and his whole sequell, &c. Also Ryngulf *the first*, (*primum*), and his whole sequell, &c. Also Elstan *the fisherman*, (*piscatorem*), and his whole sequell, &c. Also GUNTER LINIET, and his whole sequell, &c. Also ONTY GRIMKELSON, &c. Also TURSTAN DUBBE, &c. Also Algar, *the black*, (*nigrum*), &c. Also Edric, *the son of Siward*, (*filium Siwardi*), &c. Also Osmund, *the miller*, (*molendinarium*), &c. Also BESI TUK, &c. Also ELMER DE PINCEBECK, &c. Also GOUSE GAMELSON, &c."—with the same clauses to each as before.*

Now while the terms reeve, smith, carpenter, the first, fisher, the black, miller, &c. applied respectively to Colgrin, Harding, Lefstan, &c. are merely personal *descriptions*; LINIET, DUBBE, TUK, and DE PINCEBECK, have the appearance of settled surnames. The same distinction is observable between '*Edric, the son of Siward*,' and GRIMKELSON and GAMELSON. Indeed some of

* See the entire deed in Gough's History of Croyland Abbey. (App. p. 29.)

these surnames are yet remaining amongst us, as Dubbe, Tuk, Liniet, and Pincebeck — now spelt Dubb, Tuck, Linney, and Pinchbeck, a fact which I think goes far to prove that they were hereditary at the time when the deed of gift above recited was made.

This document is also opposed to another opinion prevalent among antiquaries, namely, that surnames were assumed by the nobles long before the commonalty took them. Here we see that the bondmen or churls of the Lincolnshire sheriff used them at a period when many of the landed proprietors had no other designation than a Christian name.

A great many surnames occur in Domesday book ; (Camden says, they *first* occur there.) Some of these are LOCAL, as *De Grey, de Vernon, d'Oily* ; some PATRONYMICAL, as *Richardus filius Gisleberti* ; and others OFFICIAL OR PROFESSIONAL, as *Gulielmus Camerarius*, (the chamberlain,) *Radulphus Venator*, (the hunter,) *Gislebertus Cocus*, (the cook,) &c. &c. “But very many,” as Camden remarks, “(occur) with their Christian names only, as *Olaff, Nigellus, Eustachius, Baldricus*.” It is to be observed, that those with single names are “noted last in every shire, as men of least account,” and as sub-tenants. Here a query arises. Are we to conclude that because many names are given in the single form, that the individuals to whom they belonged had only one? I think not ; and notwithstanding all that Camden and others assert on the subject, I am strongly of opinion that hereditary surnames were *sometimes* used before the Conquest.

Camden's remark, that these single-named persons come “last in every shire,” strengthens my supposition. It is probable that their inferiority of rank was the cause of the non-insertion of the second, or sur-name.

We must not forget that many of these "men of least account," were of the conquered Saxon race, who would be treated with as little ceremony in their names as in anything else. Do not modern usages with respect to the nomenclature of inferiors support this idea? We rarely speak of our superiors without the double or triple designation: *Lord So-and-So*, *Sir John Such-a-one*, or *Mr. This-or-That*, while the single names *Smith*, *Brown*, *Jones*, and *Robinson*, suffice for persons of lower grade. I will venture to say that one half of the masters and mistresses of houses in large towns do not even *know* more than one of the two names borne by their servants, some accustoming themselves to command them exclusively by their Christian names, others as exclusively using their Surnames. I know that many of my readers will regard all this as inconclusive gossip, but having hazarded an opinion, I am unwilling to leave anything unsaid that could be said in support of it.

The manors of Ripe and Newtimber, in Sussex, are mentioned in Domesday as having been, before the Conquest, the estates, respectively, of *Cane* and *Ælfech*. Now these names are still found in the county as *surnames*; the former under its antient orthography, and the latter under that of *Elphick*; but were these ever used as Christian names? *Ælfech* may be the same with *Alphage*, a Saxon fore-name; but *Cane* was certainly never so used. By the way, it is an extraordinary fact that the name of *Cane* is still borne by two respectable farmers at Ripe, in which neighbourhood, I have scarcely a doubt, their ancestors, all bearing the same monosyllabic designation, have dwelt from the days of the Confessor: an honour which few of the mighty and noble of this land can boast!

Mr. Grimaldi, in his 'Origines Genealogicæ,' speaking of the WINTON DOMESDAY, a survey of the lands belonging to Edward the Confessor, made on the oath of eighty-six burgesses of Winchester, in the reign of Henry I, says: "The most remarkable circumstance in this book is the quantity of *Surnames* among the tenants of Edward, as Alwinus Idessone, Edwinus Godeswale, Brumanus de la Forda, Leuret de Essewem, which occur in the first page.

It would however be preposterous to assert that surnames universally prevailed so early as the eleventh century: we have overwhelming evidence that they did *not*; and must admit that although the Norman Conquest did much to introduce the practice of using them, it was long before they became very common. All I am anxious to establish is, that the occasional use of family names in England dates beyond the ingress of the Normans.



CHAPTER IV.

HISTORY OF ENGLISH SURNAMES, SINCE THE NORMAN CONQUEST.



HATEVER may be advanced in favour of an earlier adoption of family designations or Surnames in particular cases, it is certain that the practice of making the second name of an individual stationary, and transmitting it to descendants, came gradually into *common* use during the eleventh and three following centuries. By the middle of the twelfth it began, in the estimation of some, to be essential that persons of rank should bear some designation in addition to the baptismal name. We have an instance of this in the wealthy heiress of the powerful Baron Fitz-Hamon's making the want of a surname in Robert, natural son of King Henry the First, an objection to his marriage with her. The lady is represented as saying :

It were to me great shame,
To have a lord withouten his twa name !*

when the monarch, to remedy the defect, gave him the surname of *Fitz-Roy* ; a designation which has been given at several subsequent periods to the illegitimate progeny of our kings.

* Robert of Gloucester. This will remind the reader of Juvenal—
“ ——— tanquam habeas tria nomina.” v. 127.

The unsettled state of surnames in those early times renders it a difficult matter to trace the pedigree of any family beyond the thirteenth century. In Cheshire, a county remarkable for the number of its resident families of great antiquity, it was very usual for younger branches of a family, laying aside the name of their father, to take their name from the place of their residence, and thus in three descents as many surnames are found in the same family. This remark may be forcibly illustrated by reference to the early pedigree of the family of Fitz-Hugh, which name did not settle down as a fixed appellative until the time of Edward III. Thus we read in succession—

Bardolph,
 Akaris Fitz-Bardolph,
 Hervey Fitz-Akaris,
 Henry Fitz-Hervey,
 Randolph Fitz-Henry,
 Henry Fitz-Randolph,
 Randolph Fitz-Henry,
 Hugh Fitz-Randolph,
 Henry Fitz-Hugh,

which last was created a baron, assuming that name as his title, and giving it permanence as a family appellative.* When there were several sons in one family, instances are found where each brother assumed a different surname. Hence the great difficulty in tracing the pedigrees of families in those early times.

It has been asserted that an act of parliament was passed in the reign of Edward the Second for enforcing the practice of using family names; but it seems more probable that necessity led the common people to adopt them. Before the Conquest there was much greater

* Halle of John Halle, i, 10.

variety in the baptismal names than at present, though, as we have seen, the Anglo-Saxons were frequently driven to the adoption of second names for the identification of individuals. The ingress of the Normans introduced the use of Scripture names, and the Saxon names for the most part became obsolete after a century or two, while the Johns, Jameses, Thomases, and Peters became so numerous, that Surnames were indispensable. In the thirteenth century it is probable that most persons of ignoble rank bore a sobriquet *instead* of the Christian name. For example, in the Household Expenses of Eleanor, Countess of Montfort, 1265, all the menials in her service bear designations such as were never conferred at the font: e. g. *Hand* was her baker, *Hicque* her tailor, and *Dobbe* her shepherd. Her carriers or messengers were *Diquon*, *Gobithesty*, *Treubodi*, and *Slingawai*!*

Two or three generations later, the commonalty were generally distinguished by names like the following, taken principally from the Inquisitiones Nonarum, 1340, (13 Edw. III.)

Johēs over the Water
 William at Byshope Gate
 Johēs o' the Shephouse
 Johēs q'dam s'viens Rog. Leneydeyman
 Johēs vicarii eccl. Ste Nich.
 Agnes, the Pr'sts sister†
 Johēs at the Castle Gate
 Johēs in the Lane
 Thom in Thelane
 Johēs at See
 Rog' atte Wodegatehouse
 Thom' le Fytheler

* Blaauw's Barons' War.

† Gent. Mag. June 1821.

Joh' ate Mouse
 Johēs le Taillour
 Johēs up the Pende
 Petr' atte the Bell
 Johēs of the Gutter
 Thomas in the Willows
 Steph' de Portico
 William of London-bridge.

About this time (to speak generally) the surnames of the middle and lower ranks began to descend from father to son; but even at the commencement of the fifteenth century there was much confusion in family names. Sometimes, indeed, the same person bore different surnames at different periods. Thus, a person who in 1406 describes himself as William, the son of Adam Emmotson, calls himself, in 1416, William Emmotson. Another person who is designated John, the son of William, the son of John de *Hunshelf*, appears soon after as John *Wilson*. Other names, such as Willielmus-Johnson-Wilkinson, Willielmus-Adamson, Magotson, and Thomas-Henson-Magot, prevail about this period.* In the Battel Abbey Deeds the names John Hervy, John Fitz-Hervie de Sudwerk, and John de London are given to one and the same person.

The following names from the same source occur in this and the preceding centuries, and it may be observed, *en passant*, that they were borne not by the lowest of the vulgar, but by persons who either gave possessions to the Abbey, or witnessed the deeds by which such gifts were made.

* Penny Cyclopædia.

Henry le *Assedrumere* (Ass-drummer !)

Edelina Husewyf, late wife of Thomas Pet.

Walter le Bœuf (the bullock).

Peter le Cuckou.

John God-me-fetch !

Reginald de la Chambre or De Camera.

William at Bachuse.

Richard Havedman (qu. headsman ?).

Bartholomew le Swan.

Coke Crul. Crul is an archaism for 'curled' or 'crooked,' and, presuming that the personal name and the sur-name have been transposed, may mean 'the deformed cook !'

Vitellius Curtius. This may be a latinization of Vital Curteis.

Ralph Yvegod.

Giles Smith, son of Luke de Swineham.

Thomas Gadregod (Gathergood).

Roger le Bunch.

Margery Domesday.

Richard Grym, called Frend.

John Couper, son of William atte Water.

The following address to the populace, at the beginning of one of the *Coventry Mysteries*, serves to illustrate the state in which the family nomenclature of the humbler classes stood in the fifteenth century :

“¶ A voyd sers ! And lete me lord the bischop come
And syt in the court, the laws for to doo ;
And I schal gon in this place, them for to somowne ;
The that ben in my book, the court ye must come to.

¶ I warne you her', all abowte,
That I somown you, all the rowte,
Loke ye fayl, for no dowte,
At the court to “per” (appear).

Both John JURDON' and Geffrey GYLE
 Malkyn MYLKEDOKE and FAYRE Mabyle,
 Stevyn STURDY, and Jack-AT-THE STYLE,
 And Sawdyr SADELER.

¶ Thom TYNKER' and Betryst BELLE
 Peyrs POTTER, and Whatt-AT-THE-WELLE,
 Symme SMAL-FEYTH, and Kate KELLE,
 And Bertylmew the BOCHER (butcher).

Kytt CAKELER, and Colett CRANE,
 Gylle FETYSE and FAYR Jane
 Powle POWTER', and P[ar]nel PRANE,
 And Phelypp the good FLECCHER.

¶ Cok CRANE, and Davy DRY-DUST
 Luce LYER, and Letyce LYTYL-TRUST,
 Miles the MILLER, and Colle CRAKE-CRUST
 Both Bette the BAKER, and Robyn REDE.

And LOKE YE RYNGE WELE IN YOWR PURS
 For ellys yowr cawse may spede the wurs,
 Thow that ye slynge goddys curs,
 Evy[n] at my hede.

¶ Both BONTYNG the BROWSTER, and Sybyly SLYNGE,
 Megge MERY-WEDYR, and Sabyn SPRYNGE
 Tyffany TWYNKELER ffayle for no thyng,
 Ffast co' a way
 The courte shall be this day."

In *Corke Lorelle's Bote*, a satirical poem imprinted by Wynkyn de Worde, there is a similar rigmarole of names :

"The pardoner sayd I will rede my roll,
 And ye shall here the names poll by poll.
 * * * *

PERS POTTER of brydge water,
 SAUNDER SELY the mustard maker,
 With JELYAN JANGELER.
 Here is JENKYNE BERWARDE of Barwycke,
 And TOM TOMBLER of warwyke,
 With PHYLYPP FLETCHER of ffernarn,
 Here is WYLL WYLY the myl pecker,

And PATRYCKE PEVYSSHE heerbeter,
With lusty HARY HANGE MAN.

Also MATHEWE TOTHE DRAWER of London,
And SYBBY SOLE mylke wyfe of Islyngton
With DAVY DRAWELACHE of rockyngame.

* * * *

Also HYCKE CROKENEC the rope maker,
And STEVEN MESYLL-MOUTHE muskyll taker
With JACKE BASKET-SELER of alwelay,
Here is GEORGE of Podyng lane CARPENTER,
And PATRYCKE PEVYSSHE a conyngye dyrte-dauber,
Worshypfull wardayn of Sloven's In;
There is MARTYN PEKE small fremason,
And PERS PEUTERER that knocketh a basyn,
With GOGLE-EYED TOMSON shepster of lyn,"
 &c. &c. &c.

That many persons in the fifteenth century carried on the trades from which either themselves or their ancestors had borrowed their family names, is proved by reference to various contemporary documents. The following entries were found by Mr. Thomas Wright among the municipal records of Southampton :

"Item, payd to *Davy Berebrewere* for a pyp of bere that was dronke at the Bargate, when the ffurst affray was of the ffrenshemen, vi. viij."

"Item, payd to *Sawndere Lokyere* for the makyng of a band and ij boltes and cheyns, and viij fforlokkes to the gone [gun] that standeth in Godeshows yeate, xij*d*."

[1432.]

Hereditary surnames can scarcely be said to have been permanently settled among the lower and middle classes before the era of the Reformation. The introduction of parish registers was probably more instrumental than anything else in settling them; for if a person were entered under one surname at baptism, it is not likely that he would be married under another, and buried under a third. Exceptions to a generally established rule, however, occurred in some places. The

Rev. Mark Noble affirms that "it was late in the seventeenth century that many families in Yorkshire, *even of the more opulent sort*, took stationary names. Still later, about Halifax, surnames became in their dialect genealogical, as *William a Bills, a Toms, a Luke*.*

In the south of England the same irregularity prevailed to some extent. In the will of one Rafe Willard, of Ifield, Sussex, dated 1617, I find several persons in the household of the great family of Covert of Slaugham thus loosely described: "Item, I give unto Mr. Ffettyplace * * * unto John white, unto Harry [the] post, unto James Jorden, unto Leonard the Huntsman, unto Christopher the Footman, and to olde Rycharde Davye the porter, to each and every of them ten shillings a peece."†

In Scotland, designations were equally loose, down to the times of James V. and Mary. Buchanan mentions, that he has seen deeds of that date "most confused and unexact in designations of persons inserted therein," parties being described as "John, son of black William," "Thomas, son of long or tall Donald," &c. Even so late as 1723, there were two gentlemen of Sir Donald Mac Donald's family, who bore no other name than Donald Gorm, or Blue Donald.‡

* Hist. Coll. Arms, Introd. p. 29. I am informed that this sort of nomenclature still prevails among the humbler classes in some parts of Westmoreland and Cumberland.

† Regist. of Wills at Lewes.

‡ Scottish Surnames, p. 18. Such epithets were sometimes called To-NAMES. "They call my kinsman 'Ludovic with the Scar,'" said Quentin. Our family names are so common in a Scottish house, that, where there is no land in the house we always give a *to-namc*.' "A *nom de guerre*, I suppose you mean," answered his companion, "and the man you speak of, we, I think, call Le Balafre, from that scar on his face, a proper man, and a good soldier." (*Quentin Durward*, vol. i. 53.)

On the remark of Tyrwhitt, in his edition of Chaucer, that it is "probable that the use of surnames was not in Chaucer's time fully established among the lower class of people," a more recent editor of the same poet says, "Why, the truth is, that they are not *now*, even in the nineteenth century, *fully* established in some parts of England. There are very few, for instance, of the miners of Staffordshire who bear the names of their fathers. The Editor knows a pig-dealer, whose father's name was Johnson, but the people call him *Pigman*, and *Pigman* he calls himself. This name may be now seen over the door of a public-house which this man keeps in Staffordshire."

But this is nothing to the practice of bearing a double set of names, which, we are assured, prevails among these colliers. Thus a man may at the same time bear the names of John Smith and Thomas Jones, without any sinister intention; but it must not be imagined that such regular names are in common use. These are a kind of *best* names, which, like their Sunday clothes, they only use on high-days and holidays, as at christenings and marriages. For every-day purposes they use no appellation, except a nickname, as *Nosey*, *Soiden-mouth*,* *Soaker*, or some such elegant designation; and this is employed, not by their neighbours alone, but by their wives and children, and even by themselves! A correspondent of Knight's Quarterly Magazine,† who is my authority for these statements, says, "I knew an apothecary in the collieries, who, as a matter of decorum, always entered the real names of his patients in his books; that is, when he could ascertain them. But they stood there only for ornament; for *use* he found it necessary to append the sobriquet,

* With the mouth awry.

† Vol. i. p. 297 et seq.

which he did with true medical formality, as, for instance, ‘Thomas Williams, *vulgo dict.*, OLD PUFF.’ . . . Clergymen have been known to send home a wedding party in despair, after a vain essay to gain from the bride and bridegroom a sound by way of name, which any known alphabet had the power of committing to paper !” A story is told of an attorney’s clerk who was professionally employed to serve a process on one of these oddly-named persons, whose real name was entered in the instrument with legal accuracy. The clerk, after a great deal of inquiry as to the whereabouts of the party, was about to abandon the search as hopeless, when a young woman, who had witnessed his labours, kindly volunteered to assist him.

“Oy say, *Bullyed*,” cried she, to the first person they met, “does thee know a mon neamed Adam Green?”

The bull-head was shaken in token of ignorance.

“*Loy-a-bed*, dost thee?”

Lie-a-bed’s opportunities of making acquaintance had been rather limited, and she could not resolve the difficulty.

Stumpy (a man with a wooden leg), *Cowskin*, *Spindleshanks*, *Cockeye*, and *Pigtail* were severally invoked, but in vain ; and the querist fell into a brown study, in which she remained for some time. At length, however, her eyes suddenly brightened, and slapping one of her companions on the shoulder, she exclaimed triumphantly, “Dash my wig ! whoy he means moy feyther !” and then turning to the gentleman, added, “Yo should’n ax’d for *Ode Blackbird* !”

I could adduce similar instances, where persons among the peasantry of my native county are much better known by sobriquets than by their proper surnames ; and many only know them by the former.

This is particularly the case where several families in one locality bear the same name. There were lately living in the small town of Folkestone, co. Kent, fifteen persons, whose hereditary name was HALL; but who, gratiâ distinctionis, bore the elegant designations of

DOGGY-HALL,	PUMBLE-FOOT,
FEATHERTOE,	COLD-FLIP,
BUMPER,	SILVER-EYE,
BUBBLES,	LUMPY,
PIERCE-EYE,	SUTTY,
FAGGOTS,	THICK-LIPS,
CULA,	and
JIGGERY,	OLD HARE.

It is not probable that advancing civilization will ever materially interfere with our present system of nomenclature, which admirably answers, in most cases, the purposes for which it is designed.



CHAPTER V.

LOCAL SURNAMES.

“Nomina locorum et prædiorum, quæ ii incolerent, aut quorum domini erant.”—DUCANGE.

“Souvent empruntés d’idiomes veillis, leur sens est aujourd’hui perdu ; souvent tirés des noms des lieux, leur signification est uniquement relative à des localités.”—SALVERTE.



THE practice of assuming second names from the place of the person’s birth or residence is of very high antiquity : we have examples in ‘Herodotus of Halicarnassus’ and ‘Diodorus Siculus.’ The surname, Iscariot, borne by the betrayer of our Lord, is supposed to have been derived from his patrimonial estate.

Mr. Kemble has shown, that this practice prevailed to some extent among our Anglo-Saxon ancestors, who placed the preposition *æt* before the surname, as :

Godwine *æt* Fechâm.

Eadric *æt* Hô.

Ælfgâr *æt* Meâpahâm.

Under the general head of local surnames are comprised three classes: 1, Those which express the country of the original assumer ; 2, Those which point to his estate or place of abode ; and, 3, Those that describe

the nature or situation of his residence. Such names as SCOTT and FRANCE belong to the first; MIDDETON and WINCHESTER to the second; and HILL and FOREST to the third.

It is generally supposed that the practice of borrowing family names from patrimonial estates became usual about the close of the tenth century, or the commencement of the eleventh, particularly in Normandy and the contiguous parts of France. Chiefly of this kind are the names in that far-famed, though apocryphal document, the **Great Roll of Battel Abbey**, a list of the principal commanders and companions in arms of William the Conqueror, to which hereafter the reader's attention will be directed. Under the feudal system the great barons assumed as surnames the proper names of their seignories, the knights who held under them did the like, and these in turn were imitated by all who possessed a landed estate, however small. Camden remarks, that there is not a single village in Normandy that has not surnamed some family in England.* The French names introduced at the Conquest may generally be known by the prefixes DE, DU, DES, DE LA, ST. OR SAINT, and by the suffixes FONT, ERS, FANT, BEAU, AGE, MONT, ARD, AUX, BOIS, LY, EUX, ET, VAL, COURT, VAUX, LAY, FORT, OT, CHAMP and VILLE; most of which are component parts of proper names of places, as every one may convince himself by the slightest glance at a map of northern France.

I shall here set down, from Camden, some of the principal surnames imported into England from the opposite side of the channel in the eleventh century,

* A thorough examination of the sources of those of our local surnames which have been borrowed from towns and seignories in Normandy would furnish materials for a very interesting essay.

which he classifies into those of Normandy, Bretagne, France, and the Netherlands.

From Normandy. Mortimer, Warren, Albigny, Percy, Gournay, Devereux, Tankerville, St.-Lo, Argenton, Marmion, St.-Maure (corruptly *Seymour*), Bracy, Maigny, Nevill, Ferrers, Harcourt, Baskerville, Mortagne, Tracy, Beaufoy, Valoins (now *Valance?*), Cayly, Lucy, Montfort, Bonville, Bouil, Avranché, &c.

From Bretagne. St. Aubin, Morley, Dinant (corrupted to *Dinham*), Dole, Balun, Conquest, Valletort, Lascelles, Bluet, &c.

From other parts of France. Courtenaye, Corby, Boleyn, Crevequer, St. Leger, Bohun, St. Andrew, Chaworth, St. Quintin, Gorges, Villiers, Cromar, Paris, Rheims, Cressy (now *Creasy*), Fynes, Beaumont, Coignac, Lyons, Chalons, Chaloner, Estampes or Stamps, and many more.

From the Netherlands. Louvaine, Gaunt (Ghent), Ipres, Bruges (now Brydges), Malines, Odingsels, Tournay, Douay, Bucers (now Byers), Beke; and, in latter ages, Daubridgcourt, Rosbert, Many, Grandison, &c.

Many persons who bear names of French origin jump, without any evidence of the fact from historical records, to the conclusion, that they must needs be descended from some stalwart Norman, who hacked his way to eminence and fortune through the serried ranks of the Saxons at Hastings. Such ambitious individuals ought to be reminded that, in the eight centuries that have elapsed since the Conquest, there have been numerous settlements of the French in this country; for instance, Queen Isabella of France, the consort of Edward II. introduced in her train many personages bearing surnames previously unknown in England, as Longchamp, Conyers, Devereux, D'Arcy, Henage,

Savage, Molineux, and Danvers;* to say nothing of the various settlements of merchants, mechanics, artists, and refugees of all kinds, who have sought and found an "island home" in Britain.

Although the practice of adopting hereditary surnames from manors and localities originated in Normandy, we are not therefore to conclude that all those names that have *de*, &c. prefixed were of Norman origin; for many families of Saxon lineage copied the example of their conquerors in this particular. If the Normans had their *De Warrens*, *De Mortimers*, and *D'Evereuxes*, the English likewise had their *De Ashburnhams*, *De Fords*, *De Newtons*, &c. *ad infinitum*. In some cases the Normans preferred the surname derived from their antient patrimonies in Normandy; in others they substituted one taken from the estate given them by the Conqueror and his successors. In a few instances the particle *de* or *d'* is still retained; but, generally speaking, it was dropped from surnames about the time of Henry the Sixth, when the title *armiger* or *esquier* among the heads of families, and *generosus* or *gentleman* among younger sons, began pretty generally to be substituted. Thus, instead of John de Alchorne, William de Catesby, &c. the landed gentry wrote themselves, John Alchorne of Alchorne, Esq., William Catesby of Catesby, Gent. &c. Our quaint old friend Verstegan thinks this change began to take place "when English men and English manners began to prevail unto the recovery of decayed credit;"* or, in other words, when the native English began to breathe from the tyranny of their Norman conquerors. This may be true of the former, but it cannot apply to the

* *Anglorum Speculum*, 1684, p. 26.

† *Restitution*, p. 311.

latter. Brevity appears to have been the real motive for the omission of the *DE*, and other particles previously used with surnames. Had euphony been regarded, it would never have occurred with the French particles; for, however much better *Hall* and *Towers* may sound than *Atte Halle* and *Atte Tower*, it cannot be denied that *De la Chambre* and *Le Despenser* are shorn of all their beauty when curtailed to *Chambers* and *Spencer*. But to return; to bear the denomination of one's own estate—to write himself 'of that Ilk'—was antiently, as it is still, considered a peculiar honour and a genuine mark of gentility: but *sic transit gloria mundi*, that I could name instances of persons having become absolutely pauperised on the very spot from which their ancestors had been surnamed.*

From these observations, however, it must not be inferred that *all* families bearing local surnames were originally possessors of the localities from which those names were borrowed. In all probability a great number of such names were never used with the *DE* at all. In Germany and Poland they discriminate in this respect by using the word *IN*, when possessors of the place, and *OF*, when only born or dwelling there. The like, Camden tells us, was formerly done in Scotland, "where you shall have Trotter *of* Folsham, and Trotter *in* Fogo; Haitley *of* Haitley, and Haitley *in* Haitley. The foregoing remark is satisfactorily borne out by such names as these, occurring at an early period in the neighbourhood of Hull: Ralph le Taverner *de* Notting-

* A correspondent remarking upon this passage says, "At Allsop, co. Derby, there are numerous Allsops of every grade in society. and at Tissington the same remark applies." I may add, that at Heathfield and Lindfield, co. Sussex, there have been peasants of those names respectively.

*ham de Kyngeston super Hull; Robert de Dripol de Kyngeston; &c.**

Salverte justly remarks, that "the peasant who removed from his native place was often sufficiently distinguished by the name of that place as a surname among the inhabitants of the town or village in which he took up his abode, and the designation passing to his children became hereditary. Hence, without having aspired to such an honour, the poor plebeian found himself assimilated to the lord of his native hamlet."

Generally speaking, the practice of adopting surnames from territorial possessions ceased at the period when that of making family appellatives *stationary* was introduced. John de Wilton might acquire an estate at Barham and fix his residence there, but he would not write himself John de Barham, but John de Wilton of Barham. In the county of Cornwall, however, and perhaps in other districts, even so lately as the sixteenth century, gentlemen often left their antient surnames on the purchase or inheritance of a new estate. Thus a member of the family of Lothon, buying the lands of Busvargus, near the Land's End, about the year 1560, relinquished his ancestral denomination, and wrote himself Busvargus. In Scotland the practice is but recently extinct.

There are several antient baronial surnames to which our old genealogists assigned a false origin. Some of these may be called *Crusading* names, from the supposition that they were derived from places visited by the founders of the families during the holy wars. *Mortimer* was, according to these etymologists, *de Mortuo Mari*, "from the Dead Sea," and *Dacre*, *D'Acre*, a town on the coast of Palestine; but it is well known that the

* Frost's History of Hull.

places from which these two are derived are situated, the one in Normandy, the other in Cumberland. *Jordan* is reputed to have been borrowed from the famous river of that name in Palestine; and *Mountjoy* is said to have been adopted from a place near Jerusalem, which, according to that worthy old traveller, Sir John Maundevile, “men clepen Mount-Joye, for it zevethe joy to pilgrymes hertes, be cause that there men seen first Jerusalem . . . a full fair place and a delicyous.”*

There is a vulgar error, that places borrowed their designations from families instead of the contrary. On this subject Camden says,—“Whereas therefore these locall denominations of families are of no great antiquitie, I cannot yet see why men should thinke that their ancestors gave names to places, when the places bare those very names before any men did their surnames. Yea, the very terminations of the names are such as are only proper and applicable to places, and not to persons in their significations, if any will marke the locall terminations which I lately specified. Who would suppose Hill, Wood, Field, Ford, Ditch, Poole, Pond, Town or Tun, and such like terminations, to be convenient for men to beare their names, vnlesse they could also dreame Hills, Woods, Fields, Ponds, &c. to have been metamorphosed into men by some supernatural transformation?

“And I doubt not but they will confesse that townes stand longer than families.

* Some religious houses in England had their *mountjoys*, a name given to eminences where the first view of the sacred edifice was to be obtained. This name is still retained in a division of the hundred of Battel, not far from the remains of the majestic pile reared by William the Conqueror. Boyer defines ‘Mont-joie’ as “a heap of stones made by a French army as a monument of victory.”

"It may also be prooved that many places which now haue Lords denominated of them had owners of other surnames and families not many hundred yeeres since.

"I know neverthelesse, that albeit most townes haue borrowed their names from their situation and other respects, yet some with apt terminations, have their names from men, as Edwardston, Alfredstone, Ubsford, Malmesbury (corruptly for Maidulphsbury). But these were from forenames or Christian names, and not from surnames. For Ingulphus plainly sheweth that *Wiburton* and *Leffrington* were so named, because two knights, Wiburt and Leofric, there sometime inhabited. But if any one should affirme that the gentlemen named *Leffrington*, *Wiburton*, *Lancaster*, *Leicester*, *Bossevill*, or *Shorditch*, gave the names to the places so named, I would humbly, without prejudice, craue respite for a further day before I beleueed them. . . ."

This error possibly originated either in the flattering tales of the genealogists,† or from the fact of surnames having been occasionally appended to the proper names of towns and manors, for the sake of distinction; or, as Camden says, "to notifie the owner," as Hurst-Perpoint, and Hurst-Monceux; Tarring-Neville, and Tarring-Peverell; Rotherfield-Greys, and Rotherfield-Pypard. It is true that a vulgar ostentation has often induced the proprietors of *mansions* to give their own names to them, as *Hammond's-Place*, *Latimer's*, *Camois-*

* Camd. Rem. p. 108.

† Among other instances of this kind, I recollect that, in the pedigree of Roberts, antiently called Rookhurst, (Hayley's Sussex MSS. Brit. Mus.) compiled in the reign of Elizabeth, it is asserted that a gentleman of Scotland, named Rookhurst, settling in Kent, *in the eleventh century*, gave that name to the manor so designated!

Court, Mark's-Hall, Theobald's, &c. &c. "when as now they have possessors of other names; and the old verse is, and alwayes will be, verified of them, which a right worshipfull friend of mine not long since writ upon his new house :

Hunc mea, mox hujus, sed postea nescio cujus."

While on this subject I would remind the reader, that the practice of borrowing the designations of places from personal names has prevailed in various ages and countries: history, both sacred and profane, furnishes us with innumerable instances. Canaan, Nineveh, Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, and Constantinople, are familiar ones.

"Romulus excipiet gentem, et Mavortia condet
Mœnia, Romanosque suo de nomine dicet."

Æn. i, 276-7.

"Æneasque meo nomen de nomine fingo." *Ib. iii, 18.*

Among the Anglo-Saxons it was pretty usual up to the period of the Norman Conquest to denominate places from their proprietors' personal names, and it is by no means improbable that in some instances the locality gave back to the posterity of an individual, as a surname, the very designation which it had originally assumed from his baptismal appellation. I am not prepared to support this remark by any better instance than the following, the doubtfulness of which I am willing to admit. The *Featherstonhaughs* of Northumberland are said to be descended from a Saxon chieftain named Frithestan, who denominated his estate Frithestanhaugh or the hill of Frithestan; and his descendants, continuing in possession until the Norman period, are alleged to have adopted from it the hereditary surname of De Featherstonhaugh.

The following interesting extract from Mr. Wright's History of Ludlow needs no apology :

“Many of the names of places, of which the meaning seems most difficult to explain, are compounded of those of Anglo-Saxon possessors or cultivators ; and the original forms of such words are readily discovered by a reference to Domesday book. Thus, on the Herefordshire side of Ludlow we have Elmodes-treow or the tree of Elmod (now Aymestry); Widferdestune, or the enclosure of Widferd (Woofferton); Willaves-lage, or the lee (saltus) of Willaf (probably Willey); Edwardes-tune, or the enclosure of Edward (Adfertton); Elnodes-tune, or the enclosure of Elnod (Elton); Bernoldune, or the hill of Bernold. In Shropshire there are Chinbaldescote, or the cot of Chinbald, a place mentioned as dependent upon Bromfield; Ælmundes-tune, or the enclosure of Elmund; Elmund-wic, or the dwelling of Elmund; Alnodes-treow, or the tree of Elnod, &c. Names of places having *ing* in the middle are generally formed from patronymics, which in Anglo-Saxon had this termination. Thus a son of Alfred was an Ælfreding; his descendants in general were Ælfredingas or Alfredings. These patronymics are generally compounded with *ham*, *tun*, &c., and whenever we can find the name of a place in pure Saxon documents, we have the patronymic in the genitive case plural. Thus Birmingham was Beorm-inga-ham, the home or residence of the sons or descendants of Beorm. There are not many names of this form in the neighbourhood of Ludlow; Berrington (Beoringatun) was perhaps the enclosure of the sons or family of Beor, and Culmington that of the family of Culm.”

But enough of these preliminary observations. It is now time to classify the local surnames into their

various kinds. Following the order just now laid down, let us first speak of patrial names—those derived from the *country* of the original bearers.* They are more numerous than might be expected; and they usually occur in antient records with the prefix *Le*.

ALMAN, from Almany (Germany.)

ANGEVIN, from Anjou. *Camden*.

BEAMISH (Bohmisch) from Bohemia. This is the traditional origin of the name, but there is a township so called in the county of Durham.

BRABAN, from Brabant. Vide *Hanway*, *infra*.

BRET, BRETON, BRITTON, from Bretagne.

BURGOYNE, from Burgundy.

CORNISH, CORNWALLIS, from Cornwall.

CHAMPAGNE }
CHAMPNEYS } from Champagne.

D'ALMAINE (D'Allemagne), from Germany; also *Dalman*.

DANE, DENIS, DENCH, from Denmark.

ESTARLING, awkwardly corrupted to *Stradling*, from 'thè East,' probably Greece.

ENGLISH, ENGLAND. It is difficult to account for these. *INGLIS* is the Scottish orthography.

FRENCH, FRANCE. (Le) FRANCEYS (unde *Francis*.)

GOth and GAUL occur among the freeholders of Yorkshire. These, if not corruptions of other words, were probably sobriquets.

FLANDERS, FLEMING, from Flanders.

GAEL or GALE, a Scot.

GERMAINE, from Germany.

GASCOYNE, from Gascony; also *Gaskoin*, and *Gaskin*.

* These are not of the same kind as the *agnomina*, *Africanus*, *Germanicus*, &c., of the antients, which were conferred upon generals for great exploits against hostile nations. Vide p. 9.

HANWAY, Hainault was so denominated in the time of Henry the Eighth. In Andrew Borde's 'Boke of the Introduction of Knowledge,' we are informed that the "money, maners and fashyons" of the inhabitants of Holland "is lyke Flaunders, *Hanway*, and Braban, which be commodious and plentyful contreys."

HOLLAND, DOUCHE; the latter is the antient form of 'Dutch.'

JANEWAY, a Genoese.

"There was one amonge the *Janwayes* that the Frenche kyng hyred to make warre agaynst the Englysshe men, whiche bare an oxe heed peynted in his shelde: the which shelde a noble man of France challenged: and so longe they stroue, that they must nedes fyght for it. So at a day and place appointed, the frenche gallaunt came into the felde, rychely armed at all peces. The *Janwaye*, all vnarmed, came also in to the felde, and said to the frenche man, wherefore shall we this day fight? Mary, said the frenche man, I wyll make good with my body, that these armes were myne auncetours before thyne. What were your auncetours armes? quod the *Janwaye*. An *oxe heed*, sayd the frenche man. Than sayde the *Janwaye*, here nedeth no batayle: For this that I beare is a *cowes heed*!" (*From 'Tales, and quicke Answeres, very mery, and pleasant to rede,'* written about temp. Henry VIII.)

IRELAND, IRISH.

JEW. There is a bookseller at Gloucester bearing this name.

LOMBARD, LAMBARDE, from Lombardy.

MAYNE, from the French province.

MAN, from the Island.

MOORE, MORRIS. The former may be, and probably is derived from the topographical expression, as it occurs

in the form of *Atmoor*, *Amoore*, &c. q. d. *at the Moor*. With respect to the latter name I may observe that it is variously spelt Morys, Moris, Morris, Morice, Morrice, Mawrice, &c., and compounded with various initial expressions, De, Mont, Fitz, Clan, &c. Some of the families bearing this name are of Welsh extraction, *Mawrrwyce*, being the Welsh form of Mavors (Mars), the god of war, antiently given to valorous chieftains of that country. One of the Welsh family mottoes has reference to this etymology, "MARTE et mari faventibus." The other Morrices are supposed to be of *Moorish* blood; their progenitors having come over from Africa, by way of Spain, into various countries of western Europe at an early period. It is a well-known fact that the particular species of saltation, called the *morrice-dance*, and several branches of magic lore, were introduced into these regions many centuries since by natives of Morocco. The professors of those arts, enriching themselves by their trade, seem in some instances to have embraced Christianity, and to have become founders of eminent families; certain it is that several magnates bearing the names of Morice, Fitz-Morice and Montmorice, attended William the Conqueror in his descent upon England, and, acquiring lands, settled in this country. The name Montmorris is said to signify "from the Moorish mountains."*

NORMAN, from Normandy. Also a *christian* name.

PICARD, from Picardy, a province of France.

POITEVIN, from Poitou. *Camd.* I have not seen this name elsewhere; *Poitlevin* however occurs.

POLAND }

POLACK }

ROMAYNE, from Rome.

* Vide Burke's *Commoners*, vol. iv.

RHODES, from the island in the Mediterranean.

SCOTT, from Scotland.*

SAXON.

SPAIN.

WALES, WALSH, WALLIS, from Wales.

WESTPHALING, from Westphalia, in Germany; also
WESTPHAL.

WIGHT, from the island of that name.

To these may be added PAYNE,† (latinized Paganus,) probably given to some *Paynim* or *Mussulman*, who embraced the Christian faith during the Crusades; and GIPSEY, bestowed on some person who had left the mysterious nomadic tribe, so well known, and become naturalized as an Englishman. Be this as it may, it is now borne by a very respectable family, who take rank as gentry, and reside, if my recollection serves me, somewhere in Kent.

From names of COUNTIES in the British dominions we derive the following family names: *Cheshire, Kent, Essex,‡ Surrey, Cornwall, Devonshire, Devon, Darbshire,*

* "Le célèbre Walter Scott porte le nom de la tribu Scott, dont le duc de Buccleugh est le chef; et ce qu'il y a de curieux, c'est que ce duc cherche son nom en Normandie et prétend que le nom primitif était *l'Escot*!"—*De Gerville*.

† Persons who wilfully remained unbaptized were antiently called *Pagani*. (Vide Fosbroke's *Encyc. of Antiq.*) Paganus is also a personal name.

‡ There is now living in the weald of Kent a person called *Essex*, from the circumstance of his father having migrated from that county. The cause of this change of the family appellation was the oddity of the original name, which the honest 'Wealdishers' found some difficulty in pronouncing. The surname *Wildish* (cognate with Cornish, Londonish, &c.) was probably given to its first bearer, not from any particular wildness of demeanour, but because he came from the *wild* or weald of Sussex. The peasants who go to the South-Down farms to assist in the labours of harvest, are still called by their hill-country brethren, '*Wildish* men.'

Hampshire, Durham, Norfolk, Rutland, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Cumberland, Renfrew, Westmoreland, Denby, Montgomery (?), *Clare (?)*, *Down (?)*, *Ross (?)*, &c. Also *Kentish, Devenish*, and *Cornish*, with which last I may add *Londonish* and *Londonoys*. The singular name *Bishoprick* was probably given to a native of the county of Durham.

The second class of local surnames consists of those derived from cities and towns; as *London, Yorke, Winchester, Chichester, Rochester, Oxford, Bristowe* (Bristol), *Warwick, Buckingham, Bedford, Carlisle, Lancaster, Hertford, Lincoln, Lester, Coventry, Portsmouth, Lewes, Hastings, Arundel, Rye, Blackburn, Hampton, Huntingdon, Grantham, Rugby, Halifax, Grimsby, Bath, Wells, Poole, Dartmouth, Hull, Kingston, Winchelsea*,* and others far too numerous to mention. The town of Devizes is often called '*The Vise*:' hence, in all probability, we have the name of *Vyse*.

Thousands of English surnames are derived from villages and obscure towns. The following are selected from the county of Sussex alone, and the number might be greatly increased. Most of them are still borne by families in various conditions in life residing in the county.

Alfriston, Arlington, Ashburnham.

Brede, Battle, Bexle,† Balcombe, Barwicke, Barnham, Bolney, Beckley, Buxted, Burwash.

Compton, Coombs, Chailey, Crowhurst, Clayton.

Denton, Deane, Dicker, Ditchling, Dallington.

* The names of *Brighton, Devonport*, and other very modern towns, which occasionally occur, (in police reports, &c.) must be of recent assumption, and are probably adopted by delinquents for the purpose of concealment.

† Hodie Bexhill.

Eckington, Ernley, Echingham.
 Firle, Folkington.
 Glynde, Goring, Grinstead, Guestling.
 Hailsham, Heathfield, Hartfield, Hurst, Hel-
 lingly, Hoo.
 Iden, Icklesham, Ifield, Itchingfield, Jevington.
 Kingston.
 Lindfield, Lulham.
 Mayfield, Madehurst, Malling, Meeching.
 Nutley, Nytimber.
 Ore, Oxenbridge.
 Preston, Patching, Penhurst, Poynings, Pevensey,
 Patcham, Preston.
 Radmell.
 Stanmer, Sedlescombe, Sutton, Stedham, Shoreham,
 Seaford.
 Ticehurst, Trotton.
 Vinehall.
 Waldron, Wistonneston, Washington, Watlington,
 Wadhurst, Willingdon.

Numerous as are the surnames derived from villages, those borrowed from manors, farms, and single houses, are very much more so. Old records prove that five, eight, or ten, local surnames, have originated in a single parish of considerable extent, and a county of average dimensions yields hundreds of such names. It follows therefore that the local surnames of English origin must be many thousands in number.

To collect a complete list of local names would require the labour and research of years. Well may M. de Gerville remark on this subject, "*ce chapitre est immense !*" The best sources for such a collection would be the indexes of places usually inserted in our larger county histories and other topographical works. A

careful examination of the ordnance surveys, and other similar documents, would convince the inquirer that thousands of family names of uncouth sound and orthography, and whose origin seemed to baffle his ingenuity, are in reality derived from obscure hamlets and insignificant landed properties ; but more on this subject in a future chapter.

As we retain most of the names of places imposed by our Anglo-Saxon ancestors, with their significant terminations, it is no wonder that—

“ In *Ford*, in *Ham*, in *Ley* and *Ton*
The most of English Surnames run.”

I am not quite sure, however, whether the proverb is sufficiently comprehensive, and I would therefore take the liberty of adding :

ING, HURST and WOOD, WICK, STED and FIELD,
Full many English surnames yield.

These ten may perhaps be regarded as the principal terminations, but there are several others only second to them in frequency :

With THORPE and BOURNE, COTE, CASTER, OKE,
COMBE, BURY, DON and STOWE, and STOKE ;
With EY and PORT, SHAW, WORTH, and WADE,
HILL, GATE, WELL, STONE are many made ;
CLIFF, MARSH, and MOUTH, and DOWN, and SAND,
And BECK and SEA with numbers stand.

Most of these also occur as distinct surnames.

Identity of surname is not always proof of the consanguinity of the persons bearing it ; for in some instances two families have derived their surname from one place, in other cases from two different places bearing the same designation. As nearly every county

has its *Norton*, its *Newton*,* its *Stoke*, or its *Sutton*, there may be nearly as many *distinct* families of those names as there are counties. Much less are such names as *Attwood*, *Waters*, *Wells*, *Banks*, &c. peculiar to one family.

"RIVERS," says Camden, "have imposed names to some men, as the old Baron *Sur-Teys* (hodie *Surtees*), that is, upon the Tees . . . *Derwentwater*, *Eden*, *Troutbeck*, *Hartgill*, *Esgill*, *Wampull*, *Swale*, *Stour*, *Temes* (and *Tamys*), *Trent*, *Tamar*, *Grant*, *Tyne*, *Croc*, *Lone*, *Lund*, *Calder*." To these I add *Severn*, *Parret*, *Dee*, *Kennett*,† *Loddon*, *Yarrow*, *Mole*, *Lea*, *Cam*, *Dart*, *Dore*, *Welland*, *Sour*, *Don*, *Shannon*, *Ure*, *Wear*, *Yare*. I think *Pickersgill* belongs to this class, as it signifies "a stream inhabited by pike or pickerell."

Hitherto I have treated of surnames derived from the *proper* names of places: let us now turn to those of the third class, namely those which describe *the nature or situation of the original bearer's residence*, such as *Hill*, *Dale*, *Wood*.

After the practice of adopting the name of one's own estate had become pretty general amongst the landed families, men of the middle and lower classes, ('*ungentylmen*,' as the Boke of St. Alban's has it,) imitating their superiors, borrowed their family names

* It is remarkable that many of the most *antique* places in the kingdom bear this name, which signifies *New-town*. This definition reminds me of an epitaph in a churchyard in the north of England:

"Here lies (alas!) and more's the pity,
All that remains of JOHN NEW-CITY."

To which the following somewhat important *nota bene* is attached:

"☞ The man's name was *New-Town*, which would not rhyme."

† If not from the Scottish personal name *Keneth*.

from the situation of their residences; thus, if one dwelt upon a HILL, he would style himself *Atte Hull*; if on a MOOR, *Attmore*, or *Amore*; if UNDER a hill, *Underdown*; if near some TOWER or GATE, *Atte Tower* or *Agate*; if by some LAKE or SHORE, *Bywater* or *Bythesea*;* if near the public road, *Bytheway*, &c.

The prefix principally made use of was ATTE, which was varied to ATTEN when the name began with a vowel. "An instance of this kind occurs in the surname of that celebrated personage in legal matters, Mr. *John a-Noke*, whose original appellation was *John Atten Oak*, as that of his constant antagonist was *John Atte Style*. That the letter N is apt to pass from the end of one word to the beginning of another, is shown in *newt*, which has certainly been formed by a corruption from *an ewt* or *eft*."† *Noke* is now seldom met with, but its corruption *Noakes* is one of the most common of surnames. The phrase, "Jack Noakes and Tom Styles," is familiarly employed to designate the rabble, and it is not, as to the former name at least, a thing of yesterday, for Skelton, who wrote in the early part of the sixteenth century, in his '*Colin Clout*,' a satire on the bishops of his time, says:

" Their mules gold do eat,
 Their neighbours die for meat;
 What care they though Gill sweat
 Or *Jack of the Noke*?"

* One family of *Bythesea*, who have been gentry for upwards of three centuries, have a tradition that the founder of their house was a foundling, and that the name was given him (in reference to the situation where he was discovered) by a gentleman who bequeathed to him the whole of his estate. Names and dates, those useful verifiers of tradition, are wanting, I fear, in this case. The Dutch have their *De Meer*, and the Spaniards their *Delmar*, both signifying 'Of the sea.'

† Glossary to Chaucer's Poems, edit. 1825.

The singularly inelegant name of *Boaks* appears to be a contraction of 'By the Oaks,' and Haynoke is doubtless 'a' Noke.' NASH is, in like manner, a corruption of *Atten-Ash*,* and NYE of *Atten-Eye*, at the island.

In the course of a few generations the prefixes ATTE, &c., were softened to A, and with the latter some few names have descended to our own times, as *Agate*, *Amoore*, *Acourt*, &c. Generally speaking, however, the A was dropped towards the end of the sixteenth or the beginning of the seventeenth century. Camden supposes the A to be a softening of OF, as Adam a'Kerby for Adam of Kirby. I think it may be deduced from four different sources :

1. From *At*, as above—John a'Gate.

2. From *Of*, as in the case of Adam a'Kerby.

3. From the Latin preposition *a*, signifying *from*, as 'Thomas a' Dover,' equivalent to 'Thomas who came from Doyer.'

4. From the same preposition in a *genealogical* sense, as 'Peter a' James,' for Peter the son of, or one descended *from*, James.

As a proof of the great frequency of names with the prefix *at* and its variations, the following are cited from the records of the county of Northampton alone, and the number might be greatly increased :

Athill.	Atmere.	Atmore.
Atbrigge.	Attechurch.	Attediche.
Atte Holle.	Atte Hawe.	Atte Hall.
Atte-Kirk.	Atte Mylle.	Atte Mylne.
Atte-wall.	Attewelle.	Attewind.
Attegate.	Attercliffe.	Atwyk.†

* Ade. atte Nasche, 1296.

† From Bridges' Northamptonshire.

'By' and 'UNDER' were sometimes used as prefixes,
e. g.:

Bygrove.	Bythesea.	Bywater.
Byfield.	Byford.	Bygate.
Underhill.	Underdown.	Underwood.
Undercliff.		

Since this kind of designations forms no inconsiderable portion of the family nomenclature of Englishmen, I must beg my indulgent reader to don his hat and gloves, and accompany me to inspect the places and objects from which our simple ancestors delighted to denominate themselves, and which, for the purpose of getting a better view, I shall digest into an alphabetical list, after the example, and with the aid of, my great predecessor in these matters, Master William Camden;* making, in the course of the perambulation, such explanatory observations as may be deemed necessary; and relating such anecdotes as may seem meet to enliven a part of my subject which all but antiquaries and philologists will perchance consider excessively dull.

A.

Abbey. This name was probably conferred upon some menial attached to a monastery.

Alehouse.

Applegarth. An orchard. *Applegate, Appleyard.*

Armitage. A hermitage.

Ash. See *Tree.*

* Camden's list contains 253 names. Verstegan has likewise a similar list. I have derived much assistance from Halliwell's 'Archaic and Provincial Dictionary,' and most of the illustrations from MS. sources are borrowed from that work.

B.

Back. In some places a ferry; at Bristol, a wharf; in Cheshire it is synonymous with 'Beck,' q. v.

Baine (Fr.) A bath.* Hence *Baynes*.

Barrack.

Bank, Banks.

Barn, Barnes.

Barrow (A.-S. *Bearw.*) A barrow; a high or hilly place; a wood or grove; a hill covered with wood.

Barton. A curtilage. In Devonshire it is applied to any freehold estate not possessed of manorial privileges.

Beacon, Beacon. A beacon is any contrivance by which information may be conveyed either by sea or land, generally by means of fire. At the period when family names were first generally adopted, it was a kind of fire-cage attached to a high pole, and was employed either for the purposes of the modern lighthouse or for alarming the country in case of invasion by the enemy. In woody districts the beacon consisted of a huge pile of brushwood or furze which was set fire to in such an emergency. Nearly every spot of unusual height in the county of Sussex is called a beacon, and was until a comparatively recent date crowned with its stack of fuel.



* There is a remarkable coincidence as to the name of *Banwell* in Somersetshire, where a great deposit of fossil bones has been discovered, and from which the place might be supposed to be denominated—*ban* being the A.-S. for bone; but Collinson mentions a much esteemed sulphureous spring there, which doubtless, as a former *bain* or bath, originated the name.

Beck (A.-S. Becc.) A brook ; and

Beckett. A little brook.*

Bellchambers. Probably a church tower.

Bent. A plain ; a common ; a field ; a moor ; so called from those places being frequently covered with the bent-grass. Willan says bents are "high pastures or shelving commons." "The term," says Halliwell, "is very common in early English poetry:

‘ Appone a *bent* without the borghe
With scharpe arowes 3e schote hym thurge.’

MS. Lincoln, A. i. 17."

Bearne. A wood.

Biggin. A building ; hence *Newbiggin* is ‘a new building.’

Borde. A cottage. In Domesday, ‘bordarii’ are cottagers.

Boys (A.-N.) A wood ; *bois*.

“ And bad them go betyme
To the *boys* Seynt Martyne.” *MS. Cantab., f. ii. 38.*

Borstall. Much discussion has been wasted on this word. In Sussex (where alone I have met with it as a surname), it signifies a winding road up a hill, and only occurs on the northern escarpment of the South Downs. ‘Robert atte Borstall.’ Sussex Subsidy Roll, 1296.

Bourne. 1. A boundary or limit (Fr. Borne). “The undiscovered country—from whose *bourne* no traveller returns.” 2. A stream (A.-S. Burne). Such names as *Seaborn*, *Winterborn*, and *Newborn* seem rather to have been derived from this local source than from the original bearers having been *born at sea, in winter, &c.*

* Parker, in his ‘Glossary of Heraldry,’ mentions a bird of this name, and states, without however naming his authority, that Thomas a’ Becket bore three of them in his arms.

Boroughs, Burg, Burke, Borrow, Burrows, are synonymous.

Bottle (A.-S. Botl.) A seat or chief mansion-house ; more usually a village. The German *büttel*, in *Wolfenbüttel* and many other names has the same signification. It also occurs simply, and in composition, in many names of places in England, as *Bootle, Newbottle, Harbottle, &c.* A sailor who had served on board of a man-of-war called the *Unity*, and bore this surname, gave one of his sons the name of ‘*Unity Bottle.*’ The baptismal rite was performed at a village church in *Sussex*, and the minister hesitated some time before he would confer so truly ridiculous a name. *Booth*, in *Cheshire*, has the same meaning.

Bottom (A.-S. Botm.) In *Sussex* the words *dale, vale, and valley* are rarely used ; *Bottom* is the substitute. In some cases hills, or rather their summits, are called ‘*Tops* ;’ e. g. *Norton Top ; Houndene Bottom.* The term under consideration signifies any low ground or valley ; hence *Longbottom, Sidebottom, Winterbottom, Rowbottom, Rosebottom, Shoebotham, Tarbottam,* and that elegant surname *Shufflebottom*, which, when understood to signify ‘*shaw-field-bottom,*’ has nothing ridiculous in it.

“*RAMSBOTTOM,*” observes an intelligent correspondent, “is the name of a township in the parish of *Bury, Lancashire.* In the same locality is a place called ‘*Ramsden.*’ These places are vulgarly pronounced *Romsbottom* and *Romsden* : their signification is, the Valley of *Roms.* *Roms* or *Rhoms* are the wild onions which abound in these two places, and nowhere else in the neighbourhood. In many parts of the North,” he continues, “this word is compounded with names of trees, as *Oakenbottom, Ashenbottom, Owler* (that is *Alder-*)

bottom. In Lancashire *hickin* is the mountain ash, whence perhaps *Higginbottom*.* In another chapter, however, I have assigned a German etymology for this name.

Bower.

Bridge (*Briggs, Bridges, Attibridge*).

Brunne, v. *Bourne*. In some instances perhaps from 'brun,' Fr. and O. E. for brown.

Brough, Burgh, v. *Borough*.

Bree (Celtic *Bre* or *Brae*), a declivity.

Brook, Abrook; *Addenbrookc* = *Atten-brooke*.

Bury, a hill, a barrow; a court, a house or castle. In Herefordshire and some other counties the chief house of a manor is still called a *bury*.

Burne, a brook; a northern pronunciation of *Bourne*, whence *Burns, Aburne, &c.*

By (Danish), a habitation; hence the strange-looking surnames terminating in *BEE*, as *Ashbee, Holmbee, Battersbee*.

Burtenshaw was antiently written 'Byrchenshaw,' that is, the little wood or thicket of birch-trees.

Bush. Although it may seem exceedingly trivial that so insignificant an object should name one of the lords of the creation, there is little doubt of the fact. There was lately living in Scotland a peasant who, with his children, was called *Funns*, because his cot was surrounded by furze, called, in some parts of the country, by that name. This sobriquet had so completely

* 'Whitford and Mitford ply your pumps;
You Clutterbuck, come, stir your stumps;
Why are you in such doleful dumps?
A fireman—and afraid of bumps!
What are they feared on? fools—od rot 'em!
Were the last words of *Higginbottom*.

usurped the place of his hereditary surname that his neighbours called him by no other name.*

Butts, marks for archery. In the days when

. England was but a fling
Sabe for the 'Crooked Stick' and the 'Grey-Goose Wing,'

most parishes had a place set apart for this necessary sport, and the place is still indicated in many parishes by the name of "the Butts." A person resident near such a spot would very naturally assume the name of "John at the Butts."

C.

Camp. *Camps*, an earthwork.

Carr (Caer, Brit.), frequently applied to elevations where castles have stood. "A wood or grove on a moist soil, generally of alders. A remarkable floating island nearly covered with willows, and called the Car, is mentioned in the Diversions of Purley, p. 443. Any hollow place or marsh is also termed a *car*" (Halliwell.) A pool (Bailey.) In Lincolnshire it means a gutter; in Yorkshire, moist, boggy land. The word in Anglo-Saxon, on the contrary, signifies a rock.

Carne (cairn), a Druidical heap of stones. A ploughland. (Halliwell.)

Cave. A good name for a person residing in, or near the mouth of a cavern. This name probably originated in Derbyshire or some other mountain region.

Castell, *Castle*. *Chatto* seems to be a corruption of the French *château*.

Chantrey. In many instances the lands formerly

* Vide an early Number of the Saturday Magazine. I may remark, however, that Bush was formerly the common denotement, and sometimes the sign, of an inn. Vide Chapter XI.

given by persons to support a chantry for their souls' health in parish or other churches still bear such designations, as Chantry Land, Chantry Farm, &c.

Chapel. Chapple.

Church.

Churchyard.

Channel. The Italians have a noble family of CANALI, a name of the same import. A feud once happened between this family and that of DA PONTE (Bridge) on the subject of precedence. "The bridges," said the latter, "are higher than the canals!" "The canals," retorted the former, "are more antient than the bridges!" The quarrel grew to so great a height, and was of such long continuance, that the Venetian senate was compelled to interpose its authority; and hence it was said, that that august body had 'broken down the Bridges and filled up the Canals!'"*

Chase, a forest or hunting-ground. The distinction between a chase and a forest seems to be this: the former generally belongs to a subject—the latter to the crown.

Clive, (A.-S.), a cliff. *Cleave, Cleve*, are other orthographies of the same word.

Clough, a ravine, or narrow glen, a deep descent between hills; sometimes a cliff. 'Clym of the Clough,' a Cumberland ballad.

Clow (whence *Clowes*). In A.-S. a rock.

"Sende him to seche in clif and *clow*." (Halliwell.)

In the North it means a floodgate.

Close, an enclosure.

Cobb, a harbour, as the Cobb of Lyme Regis, co. Dorset.

* Salverte.

Copp or *Cap*, a mound or bank, the summit of a hill.
Combe, a valley (A.-S.)

Corner.

Cot (*Cote*, *Cotes*), a cottage (A.-S. *Cote*) ; a den ; a salt-pit.

Court, the principal house of a village, (Halliwell ;) more properly a manor-house.

Cove, a cavern ; a harbour for boats.

Covert. "The *coverts* of a forest technically signify thickets full of trees touching each other, those places wherein they are scattered and stand apart being only termed woods."—Thomson's *Magna Charta*, 340.

Cowdray (Fr. *Coudraie*), a grove of hazel trees.

Cotterel, in *Domesday*, is a cottage ; but in the *Promptorium Parvulorum* the inhabitant of one—a cottager.

Cragg, *Craig*, a rock or precipice (Celtic) ; perhaps also a creek from the A.-S. *Crecca*.

Croft, a small enclosed field (A.-S.) *Craft* is a Northern pronunciation.

Cross, given to one who dwelt by a market-cross or near cross-roads.

Crouch, a cross (from the Latin *crux*). That all cross-roads formerly had a cross of wood or stone erected near the intersection, is pretty clear from the names still retained, as *John's Cross*, *Mark-Cross*, *Stone-Cross*, *High-Cross*, *Hand-Cross*, *New-Cross*, *Wych-Cross* (perhaps so named in honour of St. Richard de la Wych, bishop of Chichester). All these, and many others, occur in *Sussex*.* At *Seaford* such

* These crosses served also for direction-posts. Probably this was their primary use, the religious idea being an after-thought. The annexed cut is borrowed from one in Barclay's "*Ship of Fools*." (Vide *Fosbroke's Encyc.*)

a spot bears the name of 'the Crouch.' We find also High Crouch, Katty's* Crouch, Fair Crouch, Crow Crouch, &c. &c. Crouched or Crutched *Friars* were an order of religious who wore a cross upon their robes. The name *crutch* applied to the supports used by cripples is evidently from the same root. A person dwelling near some wayside cross would feel proud of such an appellation as *John atte Crouch*, a form in which the name frequently occurs.



[A CROUCH.]

* Saint Katherine's.

D.

Dale, Dean, Dell. Nearly synonymous. "Sometimes," as a friend observes, "*dean* means a bushy dingle or vale; but, occasionally, something much greater, as Dean Forest, and Arden, co. Warwick." The Sussex family of Atte Denne inverted the syllables of their name, and made it *Dennat* or *Dennett*.*

Derne, a solitary place (A.-S. *Dierna*).

Ditch.

Dyke. In the South and East this word signifies a ditch; elsewhere an elevated ridge of earth serving as a barrier against water.

Donne, Don, Dun (A.-S.), a down.

E.

Ey, Eye, a watery place; an island (A.-S. *Ig*).

Eruth, Rith, a ford, "John i' the Eruth," Nona; = John Ford.

East, West, North, South.

F.

Farne.

Fell, Fells, barren, stony hills. Mr. Halliwell says, a hill, moor, valley, or pasture; any unenclosed space without many trees (v. 'Frith').

Moyses wente up on that fell

Fourty dayes there gon dwelle. *Cursor Mundi.*

Fenn. The old family of *Atte Fenne* of Sussex dropped the prefix, added an *n*, and became *Fenner* or *Fenour*.

Fernes (A.-S.), a desert, wilderness: hence *Farnes*.

Field, Byfield, Attfield.

* Cartwright's Rape of Bramber.

Fleet, a tide creek ; formerly any stream.

Fold. In some places the enclosure for impounded cattle is so called.

Forest. In Holland, Van Voorst ; in France, La-forêt.

Forth, a ford.

Font, a spring.

Fountain.

Fossey (fosse-way).

Foss, a ditch.

Foot, *Foot*e, the bottom of a hill.

Frith. In Scotland, an arm of the sea ; elsewhere, a plain among woods ; elsewhere, a hedge or coppice.

“ Also there is difference between the *fryth* and the *fell* ; the fels are understood the mountains, vallyes, and pastures, with corne and such like ; the frythes betoken the springs and coppyses.” *Noble Art of Venerie*. (Halliwell.)

“ Whersoever ye fall by *fryth* or by *fell*,

My deer chylde take heed how Tristom dooth you tell,
How many maner beestys of venery ther were,” &c.

Boke of St. Albans.

Furlong, a division in an unenclosed or tenantry field. Many fields after enclosure are thus called.

Furnace.

G.

Garden.

“ The name of the grandson of Bocchoris, Tilgamus or Tilganus, signifies ‘ garden child.’ The fable is, that the infant having been cast from the top of a tower, by the order of his unnatural grandfather, was caught in mid-air by an eagle, which safely deposited him in a garden.” *Salverte*.

Garth, a yard, a little close behind a house, a warren, a churchyard; in fact, almost any small enclosure. Also a garden, as in the following quotation :

“Tak a peny-weghte of *garthe*-cresse sede, and gyff hym, at ete, and gare hym after a draghte of gude rede wyne.”—*MS. Linc. Med. f. 292.*

Garnett, a granary.

Garrison.

Gate, whence *Agate*, *Gates*, *Bygate*. Gate in Scotland means a way or road.

“He folowed thame thorowe the wod,
Alle the *gatis* that they gode.”

MS. Lincoln, A. i, 17, f. 136.

Gill, a small pebbly rivulet, a ravine or dell.

Glyn (Celtic), a glen.

Goole, a canal.

Gore, a word used in old records to describe a narrow slip of ground.

Grave, *Graves*, a grove; a cave.

Grange, a large farm, kept in hand by a religious fraternity, with buildings and often a chapel attached.

Grove, *Groves*. A foundling, now living at Tunbridge, bears this name, from his having been exposed in the Grove at Tunbridge Wells.

Green, *Greene*.

Gravett, a little grove.

Gurnall, a granary. (Scot.)

H.

Hall, a great house.

Halliwell, a holy well.

Haycock. Probably given to a foundling exposed in a hay-field.

Ham (A.-S.), a dwelling, whence *home*. In the West, a rich level pasture; in Sussex, a plot of land near water; sometimes a small triangular field or croft.

Harbour, Havens.

Hatch, a floodgate; in Cornwall, a dam or mound; in forest districts, the gateways on the verge of a forest across a public road, as Cooper's Hatch, Mersham Hatch.

Haugh (whence *Hawes*), *How*,^{***} a green plot in a valley; a hillock; flat ground by a river.

Hay, a hedge, an enclosure; in medieval Latin, a minor park or enclosure in the forests for taking deer, &c., is called a 'Haia.'

Haystack.

Head, a foreland or promontory, as Beachy Head, St. Alban's Head. Several names derived from localities are identical in sound and orthography with parts of the person, as Head, Back, Foot.

Hedge, Hedges. There is a great disposition among the illiterate to pluralize their names, as Woods for Wood, Holms for Holme, Reeves for Reeve.

Heath.

Herne, a house (Bede).

Hithe (A.-S. Hyd), a haven, a wharf.

Hide, an old law term for as much land as can be cultivated with one plough. Sometimes a field; occasionally a common or unenclosed pasture, as Arlington Hide, in Sussex.

Hill, Hull. From hill came 'At the hill,' whence *Thill*. So also 'Nill,' from Atten-hill, which, lest they should appear to be nonentities, some who bear it have changed to *Knill*! From the corresponding French term 'Dumont' came our *Dymond*.

Holme, Holmes, flat land, a meadow surrounded with water; other islands, like those in the Bristol Channel.

Holt, a grove, or small forest (Halliw.); in Sussex, invariably a small hanging wood, as Jevington Holt, Wilmington Holt, Box Holt; a grove of trees about a house (Howell); a peaked hill covered with wood (Brockett). *Nolt* = Atten-Holt.

“Ye that frequent the hilles,
And highest *HOLTES* of all,
Assist me with your skilful quilles,
And listen when I call.”

Tuberville's Songs and Sonnets (Percy Ant. Rel.)

Hold, a fortress, a tenement. *Holden* is probably a corruption of ‘holding,’ in the latter sense.

Hope, a valley; a small field; a mountain dingle; Camden says, “the side of an hill.”

Hoo, How, Hoe (A.-S. ‘How’), a high place, as the Hoe at Plymouth; a hill.

House. This seems a strange word to adopt as a name, since residence in a house was never so unusual a circumstance as to stamp any peculiarity upon a person or a family. John at Tower and Roger at Church might well distinguish individuals from their neighbours, but William at House could scarcely be deemed a *description* at all. The same name occurs in other languages, as *Las Casas* in Spanish, *Dellacasa* in Italian.

It may here be remarked that the termination *us* or *hus* is a corruption of house, as—

<i>Stonnus</i>	from	Stonehouse,
<i>Woodus</i>	”	Woodhouse,
<i>Duffus</i>	”	Dovehouse,
<i>Malthus</i>	”	Malthouse,*
<i>Hoppus</i>	”	Hophouse,
<i>Aldus</i> and } <i>Alldis</i>	”	Ald- (i. e.) old-house.

* Mme. D’Arblay’s Mem.

<i>Windus</i>	from	Windhouse (?),
<i>Loftus</i>	"	Lofthouse, and
<i>Bacchus</i>	"	Bakehouse or Backhouse.

This last corruption took place in the sixteenth century. In 1551, the benefice of Addington-Magna was presented to Christopher *Backhouse*, and only seventeen years subsequently, George *Bacchus* and others present the same living to another Christopher *Bacchus*, evidently a family connection of the former.* To this class may probably be referred such names as *Tyas*, *Nyas*, *Dallas*.

Hole. In the south of England this word is frequently applied to a house occupying a low site, as 'Hill' with some prefix is to one in an elevated situation: sometimes both terms occur in immediate proximity to each other, as *Burghill* and *Burghole*, *Thunder's Hill* and *Thunder's Hole*, in Sussex.

Hooke and *Howke*. This word occurs in various places as the name of a trivial locality, but I cannot ascertain its meaning. *Atte Hooke*, which is found in the Nonæ return, probably became '*Tooke*.'

Holloway (the 'hollow-way'), a deep road between high banks.

Holyoak, some oak which a superstitious legend had rendered famous.

Hospital. I have not found this word used as a surname, but *Spital* and *Spittle*, its contractions, are not uncommon. *Ashpital* is probably a provincial form of it; while *Spittlehouse* is a somewhat pleonastic word of the same import.

Hunt, a chase, as *Foxhunt* in Sussex.

* Vide Bridges' Northamptonshire, ii, 204.

Hurne, Horne, a corner. *Johēs* in *le Hurne*, that is, John in the Corner, occurs in the *Nonæ*, 1341. Chaucer spells it *herne* :

“Lurking in *hernes* and in lanes blinde,
Wherof these robbours and these theves by kinde
Holden hir privee fereful residence.”

Chanones-Yemannes Prol.

Hurst (A.-S.), a wood.

I

Ing, a meadow near a river.

Inch, Ince, an island.

Isle, an eminent family called *De l'Isle*, and afterwards *Lisle*, borrowed that name from the Isle of Wight; another family borrowed the same surname from the Isle of Ely.

K.

Kay, a quay; sometimes *Key*, and thence *Atkey*.

Kirk, a church.

Knapp ('Cnæp,' A.-S.), the top of a hill. “A hillocke or *knap* of a hill.” Cotgrave.

Knoll, whence *Knowles*, the top of a hill ('Cnoll,' A.-S.), a little round hill.

L.

Law, a hill or eminence ('Hlewe,' A.-S.)

Lāde (A.-S.), a passage for water, a drain.

Land (v. *Launde*).

Lane.

Lath, a barn.

Launde (whence belike *Lowndes*), a plain place in a wood, a lawn.

“Now is Gy to a *launde* y-go

Where the dragon duelled tho.” *Guy ôf Warwicke*, p. 262.

“For to hunt at the hartes in thas hye *loundes*.”

Morte Arthure.

Lee, *Legh*, *Lea*, *Leigh*, *Lye*, various spellings of one and the same word, meaning a pasture. In names of British origin, *Lle*, a place.

Lodge.

Locke, a place where rivers meet with a partial obstruction from a wooden dam; or, *Loch*, a lake.

Loppe, an uneven place.

Lough, a lake.

Lowe, a small round hill (A.-S. ‘Lowe’), a tumulus or barrow.

“With oure sheep upon the *lowe*.” *Cursor Mundi*.

Sometimes it signifies a farm, otherwhile a grove.

Lynn (Celtic), a pool. Some families so surnamed may derive from the town in Norfolk.

Lynch, a small hanging wood or thicket, on the South Downs called a ‘link;’ a strip of sward between the ploughed lands in common fields. In Gloucestershire, a hamlet.

M.

March, a boundary, as the Marches of Wales; a landmark. To march is to extend: so Sir John Maundevile:

“Arabye durethe fro the endes of the reme of Caldee unto the last ende of Affryk, and *marchethe* to the lond of Ydumee.”

Market.

Marsh.

Mead, Meadow, Meadows, Mees. Syn. The French have Paquier, Pasquier, and Pasquet (which we have naturalized in *Packet*), meaning pasturage.

Meer, Meeres, a lake, a shallow water (A.-S. 'Mere'); a boundary.

Mill. Milne, and *Mulne* are antient orthographies. From the Fr. Des Moulins comes our *Mullins*.

Minster (A.-S.) a monastery.

*More, Moore, Attemoore, Amoor, Amor.**

Moss, a moor or boggy plain.

Mote, Moate.

Mouth, a haven.

Mount.

Mountain. This name once gave occasion to a pun, which would have been excellent had the allusion been made to any other book than the Holy Scriptures. *Dr. Mountain*, chaplain to Charles II, was asked one day by that monarch to whom he should present a certain bishopric, just then vacant. "If you had but faith, Sire," replied he, "I could tell you who." "How so," said Charles, "if I had but faith?" "Why yes," said the witty cleric, "your majesty might then say *to this MOUNTAIN* 'Be thou removed into that See.'"

N.

Narraway (narrow-way).

O.

Orchard. A correspondent of the Gentleman's Magazine, Oct. 1820, suggests that such names as

* A facetious correspondent of the Literary Gazette (B. A. Oxon, Sept. 1842) says, he cannot pass 135, New Bond Street, without being reminded of the 10th Eclogue, "Omnia vincit amor;" and he suggests a free translation of the passage, viz.: "*Amor* is the best wine-merchant in London!"

Townsend, Street, Churchyard, Stair, Barn, Lane, and Orchard, "originated with foundlings, and that they possibly pointed out the places where they were exposed,"—a plausible suggestion, had we not abundant evidence of their having been first given to persons from their *residing*, when masters of families, in or near to such places.

P.

Park, Parkes (Celt. 'Parc').

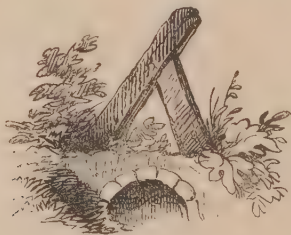
Penn (Celt.), the top of a hill.

Pende, an arch, generally one under which there is a roadway or passage.

Peak.

Pitt, Pitts. Referring to the remark above, I may mention that surnames of this kind have, *occasionally*, been given to foundlings, and that even in recent times. I perfectly recollect the grim visage of a surly septuagenarian named MOSES *Pitt*, who had been exposed in infancy in a marl-pit. "Nobody likes you," said this crabbed piece of humanity, in a quarrel with a neighbour. "Nor you," replied the latter, "not even *your mother*." Moses was silent.

Pinnock or *Pennock*, in Sussex, is the little framework above an archway over a stream, like that represented in the engraving.



Pine, a pit (Bailey).

Pinfold or *Penfold*, a pound for cattle or sheep. Thus, in the 'Two Gentlemen of Verona,'—

"*Proteus*. Nay, in that you stray; 'twere best pound you.

Speed. Nay, sir! less than a pound shall serve me for carrying your letter.

Pro. You mistake; I mean the pound—a *pinfold*.

Speed. From a pound to a *pin*, *fold* it over and over,

"Tis threefold too little for carrying a letter to your lover."

Plaine.

Plott, *Platt*, a little piece of ground; a field of even surface.

Place, a mansion.

Peel (Celtic 'Pil'), primarily, perhaps, a pool; now, on the Scottish border, a moated fort. "Within my recollection," says the Rev. A. Hedley, "almost every old house in the dales of Rede and Tyne was what is called a *peel-house*, built for securing the inhabitants and their cattle in moss-trooping times."*

Pell, a deep standing water.

Pollard, a cropped tree.

Poole, *Pole*. Shakspeare plays with the name of De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, in Henry VI, Part II, where he makes the captain who seizes him at sea tell him that he is the pool or puddle—

"whose filth and dirt

Troubles the silver spring where England drinks."

Pont, a bridge. The kindred names *Pontius*, *Ponto*, *Dupont*, *Da Ponte*, &c., occur in most of the antient and modern languages of Europe.

Playsted, *Playstow*, a place for sports; still found in many places.

Port, a haven.

Pond.

* Archæologia Æliana, i, p. 243.

Pound.

Prindle, a croft.

Q.

Quarry.

Quarel, *Quarll*, a quarry.

R.

Rayne, *Raynes*, a bound or limit.

Rick (whence *Rix*), a stack of hay or corn.

Ridge, *Attridge*.

Rigg, a ridge. By dropping A from At Rigg we get *Trigg* and thence *Triggs*.

Rill, a small stream. John at the Rill would first become John *Atterill*, and afterwards John *Trill*. How subtle are the clues that guide us in etymological investigations!

River, *Rivers*.

Rock. In French, *roche*, whence our *Roach*.

Ring, a circular enclosure for bull-baiting, &c.

Roades,
Ròdes, } corruptions of road.

Rodd, *Rode*, *Royd*, an obsolete participle of 'rid,' meaning a 'ridding,' or forest grant. It sometimes occurs in the last form as an addition to the name of an early proprietor, or to the names of the trees cleared, as *Ack-royd*, *Hol-royd*, &c.

Rowe, a street; in Scotland, a *raw*, whence *Rawes*.

Ross, a heath (Brit. 'Rhos'), peat land, a morass; also a promontory.

Rye, a bank or shore. Atte Rye became *Try*. Perhaps from the town of this name in Sussex.

S.

Sanctuary. This name may have been borne, pri-

marily, by a criminal who had 'taken sanctuary' in some privileged place.

Sale, Sales, a hall.

"Sone they sembled in *sale*
Bothe kynges and cardenale."

MS. Lincoln, A. i.

Sand, whence *Sands* and *Sandys*.

Sea, originally *At Sea*.

Shaw, a small wood or copse.

"In somer when the *shawes* be sheyne,
And leves be large and long,
Hit is fulle mery in feyre foreste
To here the foulys song."

MS. Cantab. Ff. v. 48.

Shallow, a ford.

Shank, the projecting point of a hill connecting it with the plain.

Shiel, originally a temporary hut for shepherds, (q. d. 'shield,' i. e. against wind and rain); afterwards applied to fixed habitations.

Shore, the sea-side.—In London, and in the West of England, this is the vulgar pronunciation of *sewer*.

Sike (whence *Sykes*), a small rill, a spring, a waterfall.

Skell, "a well in the old Northern English." (Camd.)

Slade. Many significations are attached to this word, viz., a valley, a ravine, a plain, a breadth of green land in plantations or ploughed fields, a small open hanging wood.

"It had been better of William a Trent
To have been abed with sorrowe,
Than to be that day in the greenwood *slade*,
To meet with Little John's arrowe."

Robin Hood.

"And how he climbeth up the bankis,
And falleth into *sladis* depe."

Gower.

Slack, low ground, a gap or pass between two mountains or hills.—

“They took the gallows from the *slack*,
 They set it in the glen,
 They hang'd the proud sheriff on that,
 Releas'd their own three men.” *Robin Hood.*

Slonk, a hollow place (A.-S. ‘Slog’). Applied on the South Downs to the little branch valleys communicating with a *combe*.

Slough.

Spence, a yard or enclosure; a buttery.

Spring, a well.

Spire, *Spires*, a steeple.

Steele, locus, a place.

Strand, the sea-shore, or the bank of a river.

Street. The French have *De-la-Rue*, the Italians *Strada*. *Stonestreet*, *Stanistreet*.

Strood, *Stroud*, “the bank of a river, as some do think.” (Camd.) Baxter makes it ‘Strawd;’ that is, ‘Ys-trawd,’ the lower tract.

Stable.

Stead (A.-S.), a farm-house and offices; a standing-place.

Steeple.

Stile, *Styles*, ‘W. atte Stighele.’ Sussex, 1296.

Stock—of a tree, I suppose, though its adoption as a name is not easily accounted for. There are similar names elsewhere. *Zouch* and *Curzon* (Fr.), mean, respectively, the trunk of a tree and the stem of a vine.

Stowe, *Stoke*, *Stokes*, a place.

Stone, *Steane*. Given first to some one whose residence was near a Druidical, or other remarkable stone.*

* Since the above was written, I find the following in M. de Gerville’s Essay on Norman Names. “Les pierres même n’échappent pas à nos nomenclatures. Le nom de LA PIERRE, chez nous, remonte parfois aux pierres druidiques.”

T.

Temple. The preceptories of the knights-templars were often called 'temples.' Hence this name, as well as *Templeman*.

Tern or *Dern*, a standing pool.

Thorn, the tree, or perhaps 'Thurn,' a tower.

Thorpe (A.-S.), a village.

Thwaite, land reclaimed from a wood or forest; a rough marshy ground; a pasture.

Toft, "a piece of ground where there hath been a house." (Camd.) Halliwell says, "open ground; a plain; a hill."

Tree, whence *Attree*, &c.

The following names of trees occur as surnames:

<i>Alder,</i>	<i>Box,</i>	<i>Hawthorne,</i>	<i>Plumtree,</i>
<i>Appletree,</i>	<i>Cherry,</i>	<i>Laurel,</i>	<i>Sickelmore,</i>
<i>Ashe,</i>	<i>Chesnut,</i>	<i>Maple,</i>	<i>Thorn,</i>
<i>Aspen,</i>	<i>Crabtree,</i>	<i>Oakes,</i>	<i>Vine,</i>
<i>Beech,</i>	<i>Elmes,</i>	<i>Peartree,</i>	<i>Willows,</i>
<i>Birch,</i>	<i>Hazel,</i>	<i>Pine,</i>	<i>Wyck;</i>

to which may be added *Apps*, a provincial name for the aspen, *Lind*, a lime-tree, and *Holm*, a holly or evergreen oak. The French have several names of the same kind, some of which have been introduced into England, as *Coigners*, a quince-tree, *Cheyney*, an oak.

Toll, a small grove of lofty trees.

Torr, a tower, or rather a castle-like, though uncastellated, hill or crag.

Tourelle (Fr.), a diminutive of tower; a turret. This appears to be the origin of our names, *Torell*, *Tourle*, &c., though most families of these names bear canting arms of bulls' heads, allusive to 'taureau,' a bull.

Tower, Towers.

Town.

Townsend, Townshend. At the end of the town, 'Atte Tunishend.'

Tune (A.-S.), an enclosure.

Trench.

Twitten is a Sussex provincialism for a narrow alley or entry. 'Ascelota atte Twytene' occurs in that county in 1296.

V.

Vale. The French have Duval, Dellavalle, &c.

Vennell, a gutter, a sink (Halliw.) Venella, according to Du Cange, is viculus, angiportus, via strictior, more properly speaking, a passage or alley that had a gate annexed.*

Venables. This name appears to be a slight modification of the Fr. *vignobles*, vineyards.

W.

Wade, a meadow; a ford.

Wall, Walls.

Wake or *Werk*, some work or building.

Warren, a colony of rabbits. This is also a Norman local name.

Water, Waters; also *Attwater* and *Bywater*.

Way.

Weir. In Scotland there is a family called *Durhamweir*.

Weller (A.-S. 'Wellere'), a hollow or gulf (sinus.)

Wells. 'At Well' became *Twell*.

Wick (whence *Wicks* and *Wix*), a hold or place of

* Gent. Mag., March, 1830.

defence ; Halliwell says, ‘ a bay, small port, or village on the side of a river.

Wold, a hill destitute of wood.

Wood (*Woods*, *Attwood*, *Bywood*, *Underwood*, *Ne-therwood*.)

Worth. Who shall decide when etymologists disagree? No less than six origins have been found for this little word, which has been made to stand for a possession, a court, a farm, a place, a fort, and an island! A very *worth-y* subject for the etymologist.*

Whitaker. To this word Bailey assigns this somewhat unintelligible definition: “The *north-east* part of a flat or shore; the middle ground.” Qu. white-acre?

Wyche, a salt work, a salt spring.

Y.

Yarde.

Yate, *Yates*, old word for gate.

Before leaving this subject I must observe — what the reader will probably have noted — that many of these names of locality bear very different acceptations in different districts. In proof of this remark I will cite a short passage from the late Dr. Hamilton’s (*miscalled*) “*Nugæ Literariæ*.”† After expatiating upon the copiousness of the English language, the author says:

“The Saxon, which is the foundation of our language, often presented a great discrimination, and this is proved in the names which it gave to places. *Combe*, is a valley, or rather gorge, between two hills, and where there is

* The family of names ending in *-with*, as *Beckwith*, *Skipwith*, *Sandwith*, &c., probably corrupt that syllable from *worth*.

† On Correlates and Synonyms, p. 390.

a wood. *Clough*, is a wooded valley, or rather hollow, by the road-side. *Slack*, is a valley stretching beneath a precipitous range. *Firth*, is a very retired, *Shaw*, is a well-wooded, glen. *Den*, is a valley that is very deep. Here, with the appearances of synonyms, are real distinctions. Once more: *Hope*, is a small stream; *Thwaite*, a rivulet; *Fleet*, an æstuary; *Gool*, a canal; *Wath*, a ford; *Burn*, a runnel; *Hithe*, a landing-place; *Sike*, a waterfall; *Holm*, contiguity to water. Much circumlocution would be required to express these shades of meaning in any other tongue. A third series may be arranged: *Holt*, a hill; *Fell*, a wild upland; *Wold*, an undulating country; *Knoll*, a small but sudden rise; *Ness*, a head-land overhanging the sea, or a mountain near it."

Dr. Hamilton's field of observation is Yorkshire,—but the topographical terms there extant apply in other districts to places of a materially different character. For example, in Sussex, many of the *Combes*, with which the county abounds, have no *wood* near them. Out of Yorkshire, a *Firth* is often a *water* rather than a 'retired glen;' and in the south of England a 'glen' is not a necessary feature in the *Shaw*. In many places a *Hope* is anything but a 'stream,' and a *Thwaite* anything but a 'rivulet.' The same remark applies, in a more limited sense, to several other expressions in the passage.

From these trivial topographical words, and many others of a similar kind which must have escaped our notice, did numbers of our ancestors borrow their family names; short, and generally monosyllabic, they were well suited to the plain, hardy, Anglo-Saxon race who assumed them; and well adapted to distinguish that race from their Norman oppressors: a distinction now happily

merged, so that we cannot say with an antient poet of ours—

“Of the Normans beth these high menne, that be of thys lond,
And the lowe menne of Saxons.”——

Some names of this class had the termination ER or MAN attached to them: thus

From BECK	was formed	<i>Beckman.</i>
BOURNE	,,	<i>Bourner.</i>
BRIDGE	,,	<i>Bridger and Bridgman.</i>
BROOK	,,	<i>Brooker.</i>
CASTLE	,,	<i>Castleman.</i>
CROUCH	,,	<i>Croucher and Crouchman.</i>
CHURCH	,,	<i>Churcher and Churchman.</i>
DEAN	,,	<i>Denman.</i>
FENNE	,,	<i>Fenner.</i>
FIELD	,,	<i>Fielder.</i>
FURLONG	,,	<i>Furlonger.</i>
GROVE	,,	<i>Grover.</i>
HEATH	,,	<i>Heather and Hother.</i>
HOLT	,,	<i>Holter and Holtman.</i>
HOLD	,,	<i>Holder.</i>
HOPE	,,	<i>Hoper.</i>
KIRK	,,	<i>Kirkman.</i>
KNAP	,,	<i>Knapper.</i>
LAKE	,,	<i>Laker and Lakeman.</i>
LOWE	,,	<i>Lower (?)</i>
MARSH	,,	<i>Marshman.</i>
MOOR	,,	<i>Moorman.</i>
PLAIN	,,	<i>Plainer.</i>
PARK	,,	<i>Parkman.</i>
PIT	,,	<i>Pittman.</i>
POND	,,	<i>Ponder</i>

From RAYNE	was formed	<i>Rayner.</i>
RIDGE	„	<i>Ridger and Ridgman.</i>
ROSS	„	<i>Rosser.</i>
RYE	„	<i>Ryman.</i>
SLADE	„	<i>Slader.</i>
STREET	„	<i>Streeter.</i>
STILE	„	<i>Styleman.</i>
STOCK	„	<i>Stocker.</i>
STONE	„	<i>Stoner.</i>
TOLL	„	<i>Toller.</i>
TOWN	„	<i>Towner.</i>
WYCH	„	<i>Wicher or Witcher.</i>

Of the very *picturesque* name *Crosweller* I do not know the origin, unless it has been derived from the residence of the first bearer, near such a spot as that described in *Marmion*—

“A little fountain-cell,
Where water, clear as diamond spark,
In a stone bason fell.
Above, some half-worn letters say—

‘Drink . weary . pilgrim ; drink . & . pray .
For . the . kind . soul . of . Sybil . Grey .
Who . built . this . CROSS . and . WELL .’ ”

Wells of reputed sanctity were often ornamented with an image of the patron saint, and with a cross. The primitive *Crosweller* may have been the *custodian* of such a sacred fountain.

Several other names similarly formed are referable to occupations, and will therefore be enumerated in a future chapter ; such are Miller, Parker, Forester, &c.

Before leaving Local Surnames, I must mention such as are derived from apartments in houses, and which

were, most likely, first given to menial servants who served in the respective rooms. Like the foregoing, they generally occur in old records in the form of *John i'the Kitchen*, *William atte Chamber*, &c. *Jorden de la Sekestrie* (sextry), and *Ricard. dict' atte Parlour*, occur in the fourteenth century among the records of Lewes Priory: *J. atte Lote* (loft,) in a subsidy roll of 1296. Besides these we have *Garret*,* *Buttery*, and *Stair*, and Camden says *Sellar*, which I have never seen. *Chalmers* is the Scottish form of *Chambers*; and *Hall* is otherwise accounted for. (p. 73.) *Drawbridge* was probably given to the porter of some old moated mansion, and *Cullis* may be an abbreviation of *Port-cullis*. To these may be added *Chimney*.

Thus, gentle reader, I have, in humble sort, set forth the origin, antiquity, and varieties of that branch of our family nomenclature borrowed from the names of places, and if thou hast found aught of gratification in my lucubrations I am satisfied: if not, close the book; thy taste and mine concur not. I quarrel not with thee, and I trust that thou wilt exercise like forbearance with me, recollecting that—"De gustibus non disputandum est,"—"and soe I bid thee right heartilie farewell."

* A facetious correspondent suggests that 'Garret' may be a translation of *Atticus*!

NOTE TO CHAPTER V.

In the illustration of Local Surnames in the foregoing chapter, I have confined myself to a few examples, unwilling to encumber my pages, as I might have done, with many thousands of names taken from the towns, villages, and hamlets of England. No reader would thank me for presenting him with a transcript of the *Villare Anglicanum*, which must have been the case had I achieved the laborious task of collecting a list of all the local surnames extant.

When the name of a family coincides with that of a place, it will be safe, as a general rule, to conclude that the surname was borrowed from the locality, and a reference to a topographical dictionary of England will solve many a problem in regard to family nomenclature. It may not be amiss, however, to furnish a few observations to enable the general reader to trace the origin of many names of this class.

It will be necessary to premise, that as Britain has been successively occupied by various races of people, so each race has stamped upon its localities proper names borrowed from its own language. Hence the existing local nomenclature, though derived for the most part from the Anglo-Saxon or primitive English tribes, comprises a few words from other sources, Celtic, Roman, Danish, and French. I speak, of course, of England, for Wales and the Highlands of Scotland borrow most

of their names from the Celtic tongue, and with these we have very little to do.

The earliest and most obvious mode of naming places, is the conferring upon them of appellations answering to their nature and situation in the language of the respective occupants. In the CELTIC dialects, for instance, *Glynde* means a vale, *Comb* (cwm) a deep valley, and *Caburn* (caer-bryn) a fortified hill. All these occur in Sussex. In the LATIN, *Castrum* is a fortified station: this word, corrupted by the Saxons to 'ceaster' or 'chester,' is common as a termination to many English towns. In the ANGLO-SAXON, *Ley* and *Tun* mean a field and an enclosure. In FRENCH, *Malfosse* stands for a dangerous ravine, and *Beaulieu* for a pleasant situation.

Sometimes the name of a place describes its situation, or some peculiarity, in a word or phrase taken from the existing language, as Hull (hill) Poole,* Newhaven, Newcastle, Bishop's Stoke.

Another, but a very limited, number of places, bear names derived from some transaction which has occurred in them. Battel in Sussex is an eminent example of this species. Lichfield, 'the field of corses,' is another.

Some places bear the names of antient possessors, as Ælfriches-tune, now Alfriston, Clappa-ham, now Clapham, Cissan-ceaster, now Chichester; literally, Ælfrick's enclosure, Clappa's home, and Cissa's fortress. So like-

* M. de Gerville observes, that most of the *original* names of places in Normandy are simply words of description, "often signifying merely rivers, mountains, or rocks, without addition; for example, Vire, the name of a town, and Ver, that of two communes, in Lower Normandy, mean 'river,' or the 'water side;' Abrant, the antient name of Avranches, means nothing else but the embouchure of a river, from 'Aber,' mouth, and 'ant,' river."

wise in Normandy; Foucarville, Barneville, the town or residence of Fulcard, of Bernard, &c.

Many take their designations from the rivers on which they stand, as Exeter, on the Exe, Plymouth, on the Plym, Yarmouth, on the Yare, Cambridge, on the Cam, Axminster, on the Axe. One very unimportant little river in Dorsetshire called the Piddle gives names to the following parishes in its course, viz., Piddletrenthide, Piddlehinton, Piddletown, Tolpiddle, Alfpiddle, and Turner's Piddle.

The names affixed to places by the Anglo-Saxons are in general very descriptive, a circumstance which enables a person tolerably acquainted with their noble language to arrive at an accurate idea of their situation, or of some principal feature.

The noun which denotes a locality is often combined with an epithet descriptive of some circumstance, quality, or natural production of the place. For instance, innumerable places, on their first colonization by the Anglo-Saxons, received the generic name of *tun*, signifying an enclosure, or what the Americans would call a 'location.' If such a place had a clayey soil it would become *Clayton*; if it had been previously unoccupied it would be *Newton*; if it lay in a level, meadow country, it would be *Leighton*; if it occupied an eminence it would be *Hilton*. In like manner a *thorp*, or village, would be styled *Aldthorpe*, *Newthorpe*, or *Highthorpe*, according to the attribute of antiquity, recency, or loftiness of situation, proper to it. Again, *Stanley* would describe a stony field; *Horsley*, a field or district noted for horses; *Ashley*, a field favourable for the growth of ash-trees.

The animal kingdom frequently furnishes the *description*, thus:—

QUADRUPEDS.

- The *Ox*. Oxley, Oxenden, Oxenham.
Horse. Horsley, Horsfield, Horsebridge.*
Cow. Cowley, Cowfold, Cowden.
Sheep. Shipley, Shepscombe, Shepton.
Ram. Ramsey, Ramslie, Ramscombe.
Hare. Haredean, Hareford, Harewood.
Goat. Goatley, Gotham.
Lamb. Lambton, Lamporte, Lambley.
Fox. Foxhunt, Foxley, Foxcote.
Boar. Boreham, Boresley, Boarswood.
Hart. Hartford, Harthill, Hartfield.
Deer. Dereham, Deerhurst.
Brock (a badger.) Brockesley, Broxbourne.

BIRDS.

- Bird*. Birdbrook, Birdham, Birdsall.
Swan. Swanscombe,† Swanbourne.
Eagle. Eaglesfield, Eglesham, Eaglescliffe.
Ern (A.-S. for eagle.) Ernley, Earnsford.
Crow. Crowham, Crawley, Crowhurst.
Rook. Rokewood, Rookwith, Rookhurst.
Raven. Ravensdale, Ravenscroft, Ravensden.
Finch. Finchley, Fincham, Finchdean.
Hawk. Hawkhurst, Hawkesborough.
Goose (A.-S. 'gos.') Gosfield, Gosden, Gosford.

* While satisfied with the accuracy of the principle of these derivations, I am probably in error in particular instances ; for example, the first syllable of this name, Horsebridge, may be the A.-S. 'hurst,' a wood, rather than the quadruped.

† This however may be Suane's combe, from Suane or Sweyn, an early proprietor.

Many names of places are compounded of one or other of the generic terms alluded to, with a specific word derived from the *vegetable* kingdom, as:—

- Oak.* Oakley, Ockham, Ockwood.
Ac (A.-S. for oak.) Acton, Acland, Ackworth.
Beech. Beechland, Coldbeche, Holbeche.
Buch (A.-S. for beech.) Buckingham, Buxted.
Box. Boxhill, Boxley, Boxgrove.
Ash. Ashley, Ashcombe, Ashburnham.
Elm. Elmingley, Elmgrove.
Thorn. Thornhill, Thornton, Thornham.
Willow. Willoughby, Willowshed.
Alder. Aldershaw, Alderton.
Pine. Pinehurst, Pinewell.
Birch. Bircham, Birchensty.
Hazel. Haselgrove, Haslewood, Hazelden.
Holm. Holmwood, Holmbush, Holmstye.
Maple. Maplested, Maplesden, Mapledurham.
Heath. Heathfield, Heathcote, Hetherington.
Broom. Bromley, Bromfield, Bromsgrove.

To enumerate the principal elements of names of places would be little more than to repeat the topographical terms defined in the latter portion of the foregoing chapter, the majority of which not only stand as names of places (and, consequently, as we have seen, as *surnames*), but are likewise used in composition with other words. To show in what a variety of connections a single word of this class is found in the formation of place-names, I subjoin a list of those in which **STONE** is a component syllable.

STONE, Stondon, Stonebeck, Stonegrave, Stoneham, Stonehouse, Stoneleigh, Stonesby, Stonesfield, Stonham,

Stonton. The Anglo-Saxon orthography is STAN, whence Stanage, Stanborough, Stancil, Stanbridge, Standewick, Stanford, Stanground, Standish, Stanlake, Stanfield, Stanhoe, Stanhope, Stanion, Stanley, Stanlow, Stanmer, Stanmore, Stanney, Stanningfield, Stannington, Stansfield, Stansted, Stanthorne, Stanton, Stanway, Stanwell, Stanwich, Stanwix. The old English pronunciation was STANE, whence Staines, Steyning, Stainborough, Stainburn, Stainly, Staincliff, Staincross, Staindross, Stainfield, Stainforth, Stainland, Stainley, Stainmore, Stainton.

Here are upwards of fifty parishes, or larger districts (as hundreds, &c.), having *stone* in some one of its forms, for their initial syllable; and the number might easily be increased twentyfold, were all those places adduced which have it in the middle or as a termination.



CHAPTER VI.

OF SURNAMES DERIVED FROM OCCUPATIONS AND PURSUITS.

“It is not to be doubted but their ancestors have first gotten them by using trades, and the children of such parents being contented to take them upon them, after-coming posterity could hardly avoid them.”—
VERSTEGAN.



FTER these locall names,” saith Master Camden, “the most in number have been derived from Occupations or Professions;” for which reason I purpose to make these the subject of my Sixth Chapter. And as some perplexity might arise in marshalling the various Surnames according to right rules of precedence, I shall consider it no small advantage to follow so skilful a herald as Mr. Clarendieux throughout these pages.*

The practice of borrowing names from the various avocations of life is of high antiquity. Thus the Romans had among them many persons, and those too

* Since the above paragraph was written, I have been partly induced to believe that the surnames derived from *individual, fore*, or, as they are improperly called, *Christian* names, are more numerous than those which form the topic of the present chapter. Be this as it may, I have not thought it worth while to disarrange the method adopted in my previous editions. M. de Gerville asserts that ‘*Le Christianisme a introduit la moitié de nos noms de famille,*’ but, ?

of the highest rank, who bore such names as Figulus, Pictor, Fabricius, Scribonius, Salinator, Agricola, &c., answering to the *Potters, Paynters, &c.* of our own times. These names became hereditary, next in order after the local names, about the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Cocus, Dapifer, &c., we have already seen were borne by men of high rank soon after the Conquest. There was, as Camden observes, no employment that did not give its designation to one, or to many families. As local names generally had the prefix DE or AT, so these frequently had LE, as *Stephen le Spicer, Walter le Boucher, John le Bakere, &c.*, in the records of the twelfth and two subsequent centuries.*

Pre-eminent in this family of Surnames, and affording wellnigh matter enough for a separate dissertation, stands *Smith*, unquestionably the commonest Surname in use. Verstegan asks—

“From whence comes SMITH, all be he Knight or Squire,
But from the Smith that *forgeth* at the fire?”

—but the antiquary should have been aware that the radix of this term is the Anglo-Saxon ‘smitan,’ to smite, and that it was therefore originally applied not

* In the ‘Chronicon Monasterii de Bello’ is a list, drawn up about the year 1080, of the inhabitants of the then recently-built town of Battel. Here the tradesmen are entered only with their baptismal names, and the designations of their respective employments, as . . . ‘Goduini coci’ . . . ‘Ædvardi purgatoris’ . . . ‘Rotberti molendinarii,’ . . . ‘Lamberti sutoris.’ These are mere descriptions—not surnames. In the course, however, of 100 or 150 years from that date, in the records of the same establishment, we meet with Surnames borrowed from trades written with capital initial letters, and either with the prefix ‘Le,’ or without it, as in modern times, as *Le Plomer, Le Corduainer, Le Vanner* (basket-maker); *Sanator* (physician), *Pessonier* (fishmonger), *Teyntner* (dyer), *Bottoner* (button-maker?), and *Panetier* (a server of bread).

merely to the Cyclopean fraternity, but also to wheelwrights, carpenters, masons, and *smiters** in general. It was in fact precisely among our ancestors what 'faber' was among the Romans—*any smith, forger, hammerer, maker, or mechanical workman*. Otherwise it would be difficult to account for the great frequency of the name.

The prevalency of this Surname, common alike to country and to town, to the North, the South, the East, the West, to peer and to plebeian, to the Old World and the New, has given rise to a host of jokes and witticisms, good, bad, and indifferent. Some of these *Smithiana*, rescued from the ephemeral columns of the newspaper, may not be undeserving of a place in our more permanent page.

John SMITH is, par excellence, *the* binominal designation most obnoxious to these sallies. Can any reader's knowledge of his species be so limited as that he cannot immediately call to mind at least half a dozen individuals bearing it? "We remember," says the editor of the *Literary Gazette*, "a bet laid and won, that a John Smith had been condemned either to death or transportation at every Old Bailey session during (we forget) two or three years!" Smith, without some rather unusual forename, is scarcely sufficient to identify a person; and John being perhaps the commonest of Christian names, John Smith may safely be pronounced *no name at all*. What then shall we say of the coun-

* The word occurs in the Saxon Chronicle in a warlike sense:

"Angles and Saxons
came to land,
o'er the broad seas,
Britain sought;
Mighty WAR-SMITHS
the Welsh o'ercame!"

tryman who directed a letter, "For Mr. John Smith at London,—with speed!" A missive addressed to Prester-John or the Man in the Moon would have been almost as likely to arrive at its destination. "Might your name be John Smith?" asked an inquisitive New Englander of a stranger. "Well, yes, it *might*," was the reply, "but it *aint* by a long chalk!" 'Robson's Commercial Directory,' for 1839, comprises a catalogue of no less than nine hundred and sixty-seven traders, in London only, bearing this ubiquitous surname, considerably more than one hundred of whom are *Johns*! It is clear therefore that the wag who got too late to a crowded theatre, could not have adopted a better stratagem for obtaining a seat than that of shouting at the top of his voice, "Mr. Smith's house is on fire!" He well knew that the audience would at once undergo a discount of some three or four per cent. A late number of the *Boston Post* states that "in March last there was to have been a great meeting of Smiths on Boston Common, to ascertain what branch of the family fell heir to a certain property in England—but the meeting was adjourned, as the common was found inadequate to the accommodation of the large number of the name anxious to attend!" Perhaps the best piece of humour relating to this name is that which appeared some years since in the newspapers, under the title of

"THE SMITHS.

"Some very learned disquisitions are just now going on among the American journals touching the origin and extraordinary extension of the family of 'the Smiths.' Industrious explorers after derivatives and nominal roots, they say, would find in the name of

John Smith a world of mystery ; and a philologist in the *Providence Journal*, after having written some thirty columns for the enlightenment of the public thereanent, has thrown down his pen and declared the subject exhaustless. From what has hitherto been discovered, it appears that the great and formidable family of the Smiths are the veritable descendants in a direct line from Shem, the son of Noah, the father of the Shemitish tribe, or the tribe of Shem : and it is thus derived—Shem, Shemit, Shmit, Smith. Another learned pundit, in the *Philadelphia Gazette*, contends for the universality of the name John Smith—not only in Great Britain and America, but among all kindreds and nations on the face of the earth. Beginning with the Hebrew, he says the Hebrews had no *Christian* names, *consequently* they had no Johns, and in Hebrew the name stood simply Shem or Shemit ; but in the other nations the John Smith is found at full, one and indivisible. Thus : Latin, Johannes Smithius ; Italian, Giovanni Smithi ; Spanish, Juan Smithas ; Dutch, Hans Schmidt ; French, Jean Smeets ; Greek, Ion Skmiton ; Russian, Jonloff Skmittowski ; Polish, Ivan Schmittiwiski ; Chinese, Jahon Shimmit ; Icelandic, Jahne Smithson ; Welsh, Iihon Schmidd ; Tuscarora, Ton Qa Smittia ; Mexican, Jontli F'Smitli. And then, to prove the *antiquity* of the name, the same *savant* observes that ‘among the cartouches, deciphered by Rossellini, on the temple of Osiris, in Egypt, was found the name of Pharaoh Smithosis, being the 9th in the 18th dynasty of the Theban kings. He was the founder of the celebrated temple of Smithopolis Magna.’ We heartily congratulate the respectable multitude of the Smiths on these profound researches : researches which bid fair to explode the generally received opinion that

the *great* family of the *Smiths* were the descendants of mere horse-shoers and hammer-men !”

The following piece of banter, in the same style, is from a newspaper paragraph of July, 1842 : “ By a chain of reasoning not less logical and conclusive than that which enabled Horne Tooke to establish the etymological deduction of the word *gerkin* from King Jeremiah, Sir Edward Bulwer proves, in his beautiful prose-poem of ‘Zanoni,’ that the *common surname of Smith* which I had hitherto supposed to have been professionally derived from Tubal-Cain, or from the family of the Fabricii, so celebrated in Roman history, owes its origin, in point of fact, to the term ‘Smintheus,’ a title bestowed upon the Phrygian Apollo ! Sir Edward, following the scholiast upon Homer, assigns the name to one of the god’s high priests : but Strabo assures us that it was bestowed upon the deity himself, in consequence of his having destroyed an immense number of *Σμύθαι*, or rats, with which the country was infested.”

SMITH is probably of more frequent use as an *alias* than any other name whatever. A couple of historical instances may be cited. At the beginning of the reign of Henry IV, the head of the great family of Carrington, a partisan of Richard II, forsook his paternal estate, and became a *John Smith* ; and when the quondam King of the French, Louis Philippe, abdicated his throne and fled for his life, he assumed the alias of Mr. William Smith !

Some of the most unusual, as well as others of the most ordinary, Surnames, are compounds of *Smith*. It is rather curious, that although the appellations of the *blacksmith* and the *whitesmith*, both very common avocations, do not occur as Surnames, that of *Brownsmith*, an obsolete calling, does. The brownsmith of

five centuries since must have been a person of some consideration, when the far-famed *brown-bills* of our warlike ancestors struck terror into the hearts of their enemies. *Nasmyth* is probably a corruption of 'nail-smith.' The *Spearsmiths* and *Shoesmiths* were respectively makers of spears and of horseshoes. *Knyfesmyth*, a name occurring in some records of the county of Derby, explains itself. *Goldsmiths* are numerous everywhere. *Arrowsmith* is not uncommon, but it must not be confounded with *Arsmith*, meaning in Anglo-Saxon, a brazier, from 'ar,' brass. *Bucksmith* is doubtless a corruption of 'bucklesmith.'

" Brydel bytters, blacke-smythes, and ferrars,
Bokell-smythes, horse leches and gold beters."

Cocke Lorelle's Bote.

In the north of England a *sock* means a plough-share; hence 'socksmith,' ludicrously corrupted to *Sucksmith* and *Sixsmiths*! I may further remark that Smith in Gaelic is *Gow*: hence *M'Gowan* is Smithson. The *Gows* were once as numerous in Scotland as the *Smiths* in England, and would be so at this time had not many of them, at a very recent date, translated the name to Smith.

But leaving the *Smiths* and their relatives, let us notice the long list of English Surnames derived from other trades and professions. We have then the *Masons* and *Carpenters*, the *Bakers* and *Butchers*, the *Braziers* and *Ironmongers*, the *Butlers* and *Taverners*, the *Carters* and *Wagners*,* the *Sadlers* and *Girdlers*, the *Tylers* and *Slaters*, the *Cartwrights* and *Plowrights*, the *Wainwrights* and *Sievwrights*, the *Colemans* and *Woodyers*, the *Boxers* and *Siveyers*, the *Taylors*

* This is from the German: it is equivalent, however, to our 'waggoner.'

and *Drapers*, the *Plowmans* and *Thatchers*,* the *Farmers* and *Shepherds*, the *Cappers* and *Shoewrights*, the *Chapmans*† and *Grocers*, the *Cowpers* or *Coopers*, the *Browckers* or *Brokers*, the *Cutlers* and *Ironmongers*, the *Wheelers* and *Millers*, the *Tanners* and *Glovers*, the *Oxlads* and *Steermans*, the *Wrights* and *Joiners*, the *Salters* and *Spicers*, the *Grinders* and *Boulters*, the *Poets* and *Prophets*, the *Hedgers* and *Ditchers*, the *Stayners* and *Gilders*, the *Moulders* and *Callenders*, the *Miners* and *Mariners*, the *Spaders* and *Harrowers*, the *Thrashers* and *Mowers*, the *Pursers* and *Banckers*, the *Posts* and *Messengers*, the *Ensigns* and *Sargents*, the *Beemans* and *Honeyman*s, the *Pilots* and *Caulkers*, the *Copperwrights* and *Staplers*, the *Drivers* and *Drovers*, the *Milliners* and *Collarmakers*, the *Bellmans* and *Paviours*, the *Trappers* and *Ginmans*, the *Lawyers* and *Barristers*, the *Scholars* and *Preachers*, the *Jugglers* and *Praters*, the *Stonecutters* and *Day-laborers*, the *Stalkers* and *Challengers*, the *Talkers* and *Laughers*, the *Ashburners* and *Mustardmakers*, the *Bards* and *Rhymers*, the *Gardeners* and *Tollers*, the *Cardmakers* and *Bookers*, the *Armorers* and *Furbishers*, the *Shipwrights* and *Goodwrights*, the *Marchants* and *Brewers*, the *Pipers* and *Vidlers*, the *Horners* and *Drummers*, the *Bellringers* and *Hornblowers*, the *Marketmans* and *Fairmans*, the *Cooks* and *Porters*, the *Hosiers* and *Weavers*, the *Caterers* and *Cheesemans*, the *Colliers* and *Sawyers*, the *Turners* and *Naylors*, (nail-makers,) the *Potters* and *Potmans*, the *Hoopers*

* *Thacker*, and the German *Decker*, and Dutch *Dekker*, have the same meaning.

† “Chapman was formerly a seller, a *cheap-man*, from ‘chepe,’ a market, and it is still used in this sense legally, as when we say ‘dealer and chapman.’”—*Knight's Shakspeare*.

and *Hookers*, the *Portmans* and *Ferrimans*, the *Poticians* and *Farriers*, the *Sellers* and *Salemans*, the *Firemans* and *Watermans*, the *Plummers* and *Glaisyers*, the *Alemans* and *Barleymans*, the *Skinners* and *Woolers*, the *Paynters* and *Dyers*, the *Mercers* and *Bucklers*, the *Workmans* and *Pedlars*, the *Boardmans* and *Inmans*, the *Chandlers* and *Pressmans*, the *Fiddlers* and *Players*, the *Rhymers* and *Readers*, the *Oastlers* and *Tappers*, the *Whiters* and *Blackers*, the *Grooms* and *Stallmans*, the *Ropers* and *Corders*, the *Twiners* and *Stringers*, the *Leadbeaters* and *Stonehewers*, to which may be added from the Nona Rolls—whether extinct or not I cannot say, the *Quarreours*, the *Sweepers*, the *Waterleders*, the *Lymlberners* and the *Candlemakers*.

A very great number of words obsolete in our language, or borrowed from other languages, and therefore unintelligible to all but philologists and antiquaries, are retained in surnames, which thus furnish the etymologist with many an agreeable reminiscence of the pursuits and manners of our ancestors. Thus *Sutor*,* is the Latin, Old English, and Saxon (*sutere*) for shoemaker; *Latimer* is a writer of Latin, or as Camden has it “an interpretour.” *Chaucer*, like *Sutor*, signifies a member of the gentle craft. *Leech*, the Anglo-Saxon (*læce*) for physician, is still partially retained in some parts of the country in “cow-*leech*,” a business usually connected with that of the farrier. Henry the First, according to Robert of Gloucester,

“ ——— Willed of a lamprey to ete,
But his Leches him verbede, for yt was a feble mete.”

* The native of Lancashire and the lover of Scottish song will understand the meaning of this term without my aid. *Soutar*, *Sowter*, *Shuter*, and *Suter* are only variations of the same name.

Thwaytes, according to Verstegan, means a feller of wood, an etymology supported by the A.-S. verb ‘*thweotan*,’ to cut, *exscindere*. *Barker* is synonymous with Tanner. In the dialogue between King Edward the Fourth and the Tanner of Tamworth, in Percy’s *Reliques*, we have the following lines :

“ What craftsman art thou, said the King,
I pray thee telle me trowe ?
I am a *Barker*, Sir, by my trade,
Now tell me, what art thou ? ”

Jenner is an old form of joiner, *Bowcher* of butcher, and *Milner* of miller. A *Lorimer* is a maker of bits for bridles, spurs, &c. There is or was a “ *Lorimers’ Company* ” in London. An *Arkwright* was in old times a maker of meal-chests, an article found in every house when families dressed their own flour. *Furner* is an anglicised form of *Fournier* (French), a man who keeps an oven or *four*, a baker, (a baker is still called a *fournier* in some parts of Kent) ; *Lavender* of *Lavandier*, a washerman ; (*Launder* and *Lander* are further contractions of the same word) ; and *Pullinger* of *Boulanger* a baker. A *Pargiter* is a plasterer : the terms ‘ *pargetting* ’ and ‘ *parge-work* ’ are of common use in medieval documents in the sense of ornamental plastering :

“ Some men wyll have their wallys plastered, some *pergetted* and whytlymed, some *roughecaste*. ”

Hormani Vulgaria quoted in Gloss. of Architecture.

A *Dawber* is also a plasterer, but probably for a plainer part of the trade. A ‘ *wimple* ’ was a kind of tippet or kerchief for the neck and shoulders of fourteenth-century ladies ; hence *Wymples*. *Webbe*, *Webber*, (and *Weber* from the German,) are equivalent to

weaver; a *Sayer* is an assayer of metals; *Tucker*, a fuller; and *Shearman* one who shears worsteds, fustians, &c.—an employment formerly known at Norwich by the designation of “shermancraft;” * *Banister* is the keeper of a bath; a *Pointer* was a maker of “points,” an obsolete article of dress; and a *Pilcher* a maker of pilches, a warm kind of upper garment, the great-coat of the fourteenth century; hence Chaucer:

“ After gret hete cometh cold,
No man cast his *pylch* away.” †

Kidder and *Kidman* are obsolete words for huxter, (Goth, “kyta,” to deal, hawk), *Hellier* for tyler, slater, or thatcher, (A.-S. *helan*,) and *Crowther* (and *Crowder*) for one who plays upon the *crowd*, an antient stringed instrument, the prototype of the modern violin, called in Welsh *crwth*, and in Irish *cruit*. Spenser, in his *Epithalamion*, has

“ The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling *croud*.”

A *Conder* was a person stationed on the sea-shore to watch the approach of the immense shoals of pilchards and herrings, and give notice thereof to the fishermen by certain understood signals, it being, singularly, a fact, that those migrations cannot be perceived at sea, although from the shore they appear literally to darken the deep. In Cornwall these men are called *Hewers*

* “As for the cloth of my ladies, Hen. Cloughe putt it to a *shereman* to dight, and he sold the cloth and ran away.”—*Plumpton Cor., Camd. Soc.* p. 30.

† The A.-S. *pylche*, whence *Pilcher*, is equivalent to our (or rather to the French) *pelisse*, which is derived immediately from the Latin *pellis*, *pellicum*, skin or fur. A pilcher was also a scabbard, as being made of hide or leather. Mercutio says to Tybalt, “Will you pluck your sword out of the *pilcher* by the ears?”

(a name probably derived from the A.-S. *eawian*, to show), and hence the surnames *Hewer*, *Huer*, and *Ewer*. A *Ridler* was a maker of sieves; a *Wait* is a minstrel; a *Fricker* (A.-S. 'fricca'), a crier or preacher; a *Tranter*, a carrier; and a *Footman*, a messenger.

In the north of England a "hack" means a mattock or axe; hence *Hackman* is possibly either the maker or the user of such an implement. *Crocker* (and perhaps *Croker*) means a maker of coarse pottery. The word 'crock,' in the provincial dialects of the south, signifies a large barrel-shaped jar. It was in general use in Chaucer's days:

"Spurn not as doth a *crocke* against a wal."

Maunder (from the Old Eng. verb 'maund,' to beg,) is beggar, and *Card*, a word still in use in Scotland, means a travelling tinker! 'Napery' is household linen; hence *Napper* probably stands for a manufacturer or seller of that article. *Seamer* is the A.-S. for tailor, and *Lomer* for a maker of 'lomes' or tubs. *Fortner* is believed to mean a combatant in a tilting match, from the old English 'fortuny,' a tournament—the issue of such conflicts being very much dependent upon fortune or chance. *Sanger* is singer. *Monger* (A.-S. *mancgere* and *monger*) is merchant. The monger of Saxon times was a much more important personage than those who, in our days, bear the name. He was the prototype of the merchant-princes of the nineteenth century; he was a dealer in *many* things (unde nomen) which his shipmen brought from many lands; but our modern mongers, be they *Ironmongers*, *Cheesemongers*, *Fellmongers*, *Woodmongers*, or *Icemongers* (?), traffic chiefly in a single article. All these compounds stand, I believe, as surnames, but *Horsemonger*, *Newsmonger*, *Match-*

monger, and Costardmonger, (i. e. a dealer in apples,) have never been used as such.

Tyerman and *Tireman* probably mean a maker of ornaments for the head; *tire* being, as Johnson supposes, a corruption either of 'tiara' or of 'attire.'

"On her head she wore a *tire* of gold,
Adorned with gems and ouches." *Spenser.*

"Round *tires* like the moon." *Isaiah*, c. iii, v. 18.

'Tirewoman,' an obsolescent word, meaning one whose business it is to make dresses for the head, is retained by Johnson. Perhaps, however, the *Tyerman* of olden times was no man-milliner, but followed the more masculine occupation of making ready the furniture of the battle-field:

"Immediate sieges and the *tire* of war,
Rowl in thy eager mind." *Philips.*

Lunhunter has cost me conjectures not a few. An ingenious correspondent suggests the two following etymons: 1. Lone, solitary, having no companion—one who hunted by himself. 2. Loon, Icelandic 'lunde,' a sea-fowl of the genus *Colymbus*—a hunter of that species of bird. I confess that it would have been more satisfactory had my correspondent identified *lun* or *lund* with some *quadruped* bearing such trivial or provincial appellation.

Shipster is the Anglo-Saxon 'scip-styra,' ship-steerer or pilot.

"Gogle-eyed Tomson, *shepster* of Lyn." *Cocke Lorelle's Bote.*

Comber, *Camber*, and the feminine form *Kempster*, are from 'came,' and 'kembe,' old forms of comb, and are synonymous with *Coomber*, a wool-comber. *Carder*, *Towzer*, and *Tozer*, point to another branch of the

same craft: 'toze' and 'trowse' are synonymous with *tease* :

" ——— Upon the stone
His wife sat near him *teasing* matted wool,
While from the twin *cards* tooth'd with glittering wire
He fed the spindle of his youngest child."

To 'toom' is to take wool off the cards—hence *Toomer* ; a 'slay' is an instrument belonging to a loom, whence *Slaymaker*. A *Blower*, sometimes corrupted to *Blore*, was the man who superintended the blast at a furnace. A *Raper* is a ropemaker ; a *Tupman* a breeder of rams, called in some places 'tups ;' and a *Tilman* a farm-labourer : 'Note' in the North signifies oxen or *neat* cattle : hence *Notman*, which might appear to belong to a *coward*, really denotes a *cowherd* ! *Vacher* is certainly a cow-keeper. *Akerman* is the A.-S. 'æcer-mon,' a fieldman or husbandman ; *Flatman*, 'flot-mon,' a sailor ; *Firman*, 'ferd-mon,' a soldier ; and *Score* is probably the 'sceawere,' beholder, spectator, or spy, of the same language. In the fourteenth century the jurats of Pevensey, co. Sussex, were called 'skawers,' in the sense of overseers or superintendents of the marshes. A *Tasker* is a thrasher, and occurs in that sense in the fifteenth century,—'Triturator, a tasker.' (Halliw.)

Tubman, *Tupper*, and *Dubber* are probably synonymous with the Germ. 'Taubmann,' a maker of tubs. 'Daube' in that language is a stave used in making tubs, and to 'dub,' a piece of wood, in the language of our shipwrights and coopers, means to fashion it with an adze.

Pulter, *Polter*, and *Poulter* are the original and true forms of poulterer (to which, as in the cases of fruiterer, upholsterer, &c. an extra -ER has been added). In the

directions to the Lord Mayor of London for the reception of the suite of Charles V when he visited Henry VIII, appears this,

“Item, to appoynt iiij *pulvers* to serve for the said persons of all maner *pultry*,”

and the same king incorporated a “*Poulters’ Company*.”

Cramer is German (*krämer*), and signifies a retail dealer.

A ‘cade’ is a cask; hence *Cadman* is a maker of cades or kegs. Cade, in this sense, was used in Shakspeare’s days :

“*Cade*. We John Cade, so termed of our supposed father.”

“*Dick*. Or rather of stealing a *cade of herrings* !”

Hen. VI. Act iv, Sc. 2.

In the same play we have an illustration of the name *Shearman*, before mentioned (page 108). George Bevis loquitur :

“I tell thee, Jack Cade the *clothier* means to dress the commonwealth and turn it, and set a new nap upon it.”

Act iv, Sc. 2.

Stafford (to Cade.)

“Villain, thy father was a plasterer, and thou thyself a *shearman*, art thou not ?”

‘Aledraper,’ a cant term applied to the keeper of an alehouse, is probably of too modern date to have become a family name, yet we have the equally ridiculous designation, *Alefounder*. A *Satcher* is a maker of sacks or satchells, and a *Kilner* is a man who attends a furnace or kiln. A ‘slop’ is a kind of cloak or mantle, also a buskin or boot much used in the fifteenth century—hence *Sloper*.*

* The modern *slop*-seller, or dealer in ready-made clothes, probably owes his designation to this source.

As a general rule, all names terminating with *ER* indicate some employment or profession. *ER* is unquestionably derived from the Anglo-Saxon 'wer' or 'were' a man; hence Salter is Salt-*man*, and Miller, Mill-*man*. These terminations *er* and *man* are often used interchangeably; thus we have Potter and Pottman, Tiler and Tileman, Carter and Cartman, Wooler and Woolman, cum multis aliis. Besides these, we have *Horseman*, *Palfriman*, *Coltman*, *Padman* (a 'pad' was an easy-paced nag), *Wainman* (corrupted to *Wenman*), *Carman*, *Coachman*, *Boatman*, *Clothman*, *Seaman*, *Tubman*, and *Spelman*, which, Camden says, means 'learned man,' but which, I should rather say, signifies a man who worked by 'spells' or turns with another, if indeed it be not intended for a necromancer, charmer, or worker of *spells*.

Tha ongunnon lease men wyrcean 'spell.'

Then began false men to work spells.

Boet. 38, i.

I may add, however, that 'spelman' is the Swedish, and 'speilmann' the German, for a wandering musician, while 'spielman' in the Scottish dialect means a climbing man.

A 'spill' is a spindle or a lath; hence *Spiller*, *Speller*, and *Spillman* may be makers of spindles or makers of laths. The latter business, it may be observed, still maintains its existence as a separate branch of employment in some districts.

One of the most singular features in this department of our family nomenclature is the existence of several surnames terminating in *-STER*, which is the regular Anglo-Saxon form of feminine nouns of action, as *ER* is of masculine ones. The word 'Spinster' is the regular feminine of 'spinner' and not of *bachelor*, as Lindley

Murray would have us suppose. *Bæcestre*, *sangstre*, and *seamestre*, are the regular feminines of *bæcere*, baker, *sangere*, singer, and *seamere*, tailor; hence it is evident that—

Tapster is the feminine of Tapper.

Baxter and *Bagster* Baker.

Whitster „ Whiter (a fuller.)

Webster „ Webber (weaver.)

Kempster „ Kember (comber.)*

Sangster „ Sanger (singer.)

Fewster „ Fewer (A.-S. feoh-fee) a feoffee.

Brewster „ Brewer.

That the business of brewing was antiently carried on by women is evident from the following authorities: In Sir John Skene's Borough Laws, 'Browsters' are described as 'Wemen quha brewes aill to be sauld.' "Gif *she* makes gude aill," says an old Scottish statute, "that is sufficient. Bot gif *she* makes evill aill *she* shall pay aucht shillinges or sall be put upon the cockstule, and the aill sall be distributed to the pure folke." In the Custumal of the town of Rye we read, "if a *brūster*, free, hath made ale, and sell it in the foreign, in fairs or in markets, and the lord of the soil will distress *her* against her will for the sale of the said ale, &c."†

Mr. Poulson, in his 'History of Beverley,' observes that "Artificers were by statute of 27, Edw. III, c. 5, 6, tied down to one occupation with an exception of *female* brewers, bakers, weavers, spinners and other women employed upon works in wool, linen, or silk

* *Pectrix*, a 'kempster.' Nominale MS.

† Holloway's Rye, p. 155.

embroidery, &c. If this act had been in the language of the country, the same terms would have been used as will frequently occur in these pages, namely *Brewster, Baxter, Webster, &c.*, the termination *ster* signifying a woman (not a man) who brews, bakes, weaves, &c.” The same learned writer thus shows how these names of feminine employments could become hereditary surnames: “When men began to invade those departments of industry by which women used to earn an honest livelihood, *they retained the feminine appellations for some time*, as men-midwives and men-milliners do now; but afterwards masculine words drove the feminine ones out of the language, as men had driven the women out of the employments. ‘Spinster’ still retains its genuine termination; and the language of the law seems to presume that every unmarried woman is employed in spinning.”*

Dexter appears to be a feminine form—but of what? Although no such word as ‘daegestre’ occurs in the Saxon dictionary, may it not be a compound of ‘daeg,’ ‘dag,’ day, and the feminine termination alluded to, and so signify a woman that works by the day—a charwoman?

Pewtress looks like the feminine of pewterer, but I am not aware that this calling was ever carried on by women.

There is a string of names derived from occupations which sound right oddly when placed in juxta-position,

* Beverlac, p. 128. This curious subject deserves further illustration; but it belongs rather to general etymology than to my special department. I cannot, however, pass unnoticed a singular fact in relation to the words *younker* and *youngster*, the former of which is the proper masculine, and the latter the correct *feminine*. In the mutation which nearly the whole of this class of words has undergone, *younker* has been discarded from the vocabulary of polite persons, and degraded to a nautical vulgarity, while *youngster* has been transferred from the girl to the boy!

and which, *primâ facie*, would appear to be fully as applicable to the *equine* as to the human species; namely, *Traveller*, *Walker*, *Ryder*, *Ambler*, *Trotter*, *Hopper*, *Skipper*, *Jumper*, and *Hobler*! Of these, *TRAVELLER* was probably given to some one who, like Maundevile, had visited 'straunge contries and ilands.' A *TROTTER* (synonymous with *Trotman*) was the running-footman of the middle ages. So early as the thirteenth century we find the word latinized '*Trottarius*;' and in some monkish statutes of the date of 1218, mentioned by Fosbroke, it is enjoined that "everyone be content with a horse and a *trotter*." In the MS. romance of Aubrey the hero's valet is called his trotting servitor—*son serjant trotier*, and it is from this expression that Taylor, the water-poet, speaks of a *trotting* footman.*

WALKER signifies either (A.-S. *wealcere*) a fuller,† or an officer, whose duty consisted in 'walking' or inspecting a certain space of forest-ground. *RIDER* means another forest officer, a superintendent (as I take it) of the 'walkers,'—a ranger, who derived his name from the circumstance of his being mounted, as having a larger district to supervise. In the ballad of 'William of Cloudesley,' &c. the king, rewarding the dexterity of the archer who shot the apple from his child's head, says:—

"I give thee eightene-pence a day,
And my bowe thou shalt bere,
And over all the north countrè,
I make thee chyfe rydere!"‡ *Percy's Reliques.*

* *Encyclopædia of Antiq.*, voc. Running-footman.

† In the North of England a fulling-mill is still called a '*walk-mill*,' and at Alfrich, co. Worcester, there are some thin strata of unctuous clay of a whitish hue, still called "walker's clay." Ex inf. Jabez Allies, Esq. F.S.A.

‡ It is worthy of remark, however, that *Ryder*, Lord Harrowby claims from *Ryther* in Yorkshire.

AMBLER, antiently *le Amblour*, is from the French, 'ambleur,' an officer of the king's stable. HOPPER probably signified an officer who had the care of swans. By swan-'hopping,' or 'upping,' was meant the searching for and marking of the swans belonging to particular proprietors. It must not be forgotten, however, that the A.-S. *hoppere* means a dancer. SKIPPER (A.-S. *scipere*, a sailor) is a very ancient term for the captain or master of a vessel; *Jumper* possibly meant a maker of 'jumps,' that is, a kind of short coats or boddices for women;* while *Hobler* is most unquestionably a contraction of 'hobbelar' or 'hobiler,' a person who by the tenure of his lands was obliged to keep a *hobby* or light horse, to maintain a watch by the side of a beacon, and to alarm the country† in case of the enemy's approach in the day-time, when the fire of the beacons would not be discernible from a distance. It would seem also that the term was sometimes used to signify persons of an equestrian order, lower in dignity than knights, and probably mounted on meaner and smaller animals. In an antient romance we read of

" Ten thousand knights stout and fers (fierce)
Withouten *hobelers* and squyers."

The etymology of *Dancer* is sufficiently obvious; the first of that name doubtless possessed peculiar skill in the art saltatory. Perhaps, after all, the names *Hopper* and *Jumper* were acquired by proficiency in the gymnastic exercises to which at first sight they seem to refer.

Massenger is an evident corruption of the French 'messenger,' a messenger, a bearer of despatches, &c.

* Bailey's Dictionary.

† Fenn's Paston Letters.

Pottinger is the Scottish for apothecary,* and *Lardner* is an obsolete word for swine-herd, or rather a person who superintended the pannage of hogs in a forest.

Names of the foregoing description, however mean in their origin, are now frequently found among the highest classes of society. The names *Collier* and *Salter* are, or have been, in the British peerage, although those occupations were once considered so menial and vile that none but bondmen would follow them. Some names of this sort have been changed in orthography to hide their original meanness; “mollified ridiculously,” as Master Camden hath it, “lest their bearers should seem vilified by them.” *Carteer*, *Smeeth*, *Tayleure*,† *Cuttlar*, &c., are frequently met with as the substitutes of *Carter*, *Smith*, *Tailor*, and *Cutler*. “Wise was the man that told my Lord Bishop that his name was not *Gardener* as the English pronounce it, but *Gardiner*, with the French accent, and therefore a gentleman.”‡

Some names have reference to military pursuits, as *Arblastar*,§ *Hookman*, *Billman*, *Spearman*, *Bowman*, *Bannerman*.

The number and variety of surnames connected with the pleasures of the chase furnish evidence of the predilection of our progenitors for field-sports. Thus we have in great abundance our *Hunters*, *Fowlers*, *Fishers*, *Falconers*, (*Faulkners*, and *Fawkeners*), *Hawkers*, *Anglers*, *Warreners*, *Bowyers*, and *Bowmakers*, *Stringers*, that is

* Jamieson’s Scottish Dictionary.

† A Mr. Taylor who had by “ridiculous mollification” become Mr. *Tayleure*, once haughtily demanding of a farmer the name of his dog, the honest son of the soil replied, “Why, sir, his proper name is *Jowler*, but since he’s a consequential kind of puppy, we calls him *Jouleure*!”

‡ Camden.

§ Vide infra.

bow-string makers, *Arrow-smiths*, *Fletchers* (from the Fr. 'fleche'), that is, either an arrow-maker, or more generally, a superintendent of archery. But some of these may be official names, and, therefore, more properly belong to my next chapter. *Buckmaster*, *Buckman*, *Hindman*, *Stagman*, and *Hartman* were probably servants to the 'Parker,' and had the care of herds of venison. *Brockman* is a hunter of 'brocks' or badgers. A 'tod' in Scotland and the North of England, is a fox; hence *Todhunter* is a foxhunter, though not in the *red-coated* sense of that term. A northern correspondent informs me that he knows an old man, a destroyer of foxes, who calls himself, and is called, the "Old Tod-hunter of Grapington," in Craven. The expression "wily tod" occurs in the writings of Wycliffe.* *Burder* signifies a bird-catcher or fowler, as the following jest, written upwards of three centuries since, will prove:—

"There was a doctour on a tyme, whiche desired a fouler, that went to catche byrdes with an owle, that he might go with hym. The *byrder* was content, and dressed him with bows, and set hym by his oule, and bade him say nothyng. When he saw the byrdes alyght a pace, he sayde: There be many byrdes alyghted, drawe thy nettes, where-with the byrdes flewe awaye. The *byrder* was very angry, and blamed him greatly for his speakyng. Than he promysed to hold his peace. When the *byrder* was in again and many byrdes were alyghted, mayster Doctour said in Latyn, AVES PER-MULTE ADSUNT: wherwith the byrdes flewe away. The *byrder* came out ryghte angrie and sore displeased, and sayde, that by his bablyng he had twyse loste his pray.

* *Todman* also occurs as a surname.

‘Why, thynkest thou, foole,’ quoth the doctour, ‘that the byrdes *do vnderstand Latin*?’ ”*

‘Low’ is the Scottish for fire, and ‘low-bellers’ are, according to Blount,† men “who go with a light and a bell, by the sight whereof birds, sitting on the ground, become somewhat stupified, and so are covered with a net and taken.” Hence LOWER is perhaps a *bird-catcher*. The Teutonic ‘loer’ is one who lays snares, and *Lowrie* in the Scottish dialect signifies a crafty person, in allusion probably to the same occupation.

In the records of the Middle Ages the surnames of individuals are generally latinized, and the Latin expressions seem occasionally to have superseded the original English ones. Hence *Mercator*, *Tonsor*, *Faber*, in this class, are still found as family names.

Although the opinion of Verstegan, cited in the motto of the present chapter, is supported by the strongest possible evidence as to the vast majority of instances, it is equally certain that in a few cases names of trades have been given as cognomens to persons above the plebeian rank. For example, Willelmus Faber, a Norman monk who enjoyed the favour of William the Conqueror, and assisted him in the foundation of Battel Abbey on the site of the conflict which had given him the crown, acquired his surname from the following circumstance. As he was engaged one day with his brethren in the not very ascetic pursuit of hunting, the party had exhausted their arrows, and were fain to apply to a neighbouring blacksmith for a new stock of these missiles; but the mechanic being unskilled in this kind of work, William seized his tools and presently produced an arrow of excellent work-

* Tales and Quicke Answers, very mery, &c.

† Law Dictionary.

manship. Hence his companions jocularly called him Faber, or the smith, a name which he was unable afterwards to lay aside.*

The following somewhat analogous instance may well excite the reader's astonishment: *the surname Butcher was given as a title of honour.* "LE BOUCHER," says Saintfoix, "was antiently a *noble surname* given to a general after a victory, in commemoration of his having slaughtered some thirty or forty thousand men!"† *Horribile dictu!*—henceforward let all lovers of peace exclaim,

"One murder makes a villain; millions a BUTCHER!"

NOTE TO CHAPTER VI.

With respect to the application of the surnames treated of in the foregoing Chapter, we may observe that there was much greater propriety in making the names of occupations stationary family names than appears at first sight; for the same trade was often pursued for many generations by the descendants of the individual who in the first instance used it. Sometimes a particular trade is retained by most of the male branches of a family even for centuries. Thus the family of

* Quod cum sodalibus venatum aliquando profectus, sagittis forte deficientibus, cum quendam fabrum hujusmodi operis ignarum adissent, ipse malleis arreptis mox sagittam artificio ingenio compegit. Hinc Fabri nomen obtinuit.—*Chronicon Monasterii de Bello.*

† Le Boucher étoit anciennement un *surnom glorieux*, qu'on donnoit à un général, après une victoire—en *reconnoissance* du *carnage* qu'il avoit fait de trente ou quarante mille hommes.—*Saintfoix, Historical Essays.*

Oxley, in Sussex, were nearly all smiths or iron-founders during the long period of 250 years. Most of the Ades of the same county have been farmers for a still longer period. The trade of weaving has been carried on by another Sussex family named *Webb* (weaver) as far back as the traditions of the family extend, and it is not improbable that this business has been exercised by them ever since the first assumption of the term as a surname, by some fabricator of cloth in the thirteenth or fourteenth century. But the most remarkable instance of the long retention of a particular avocation by one man's posterity is in the family of Purkess, of the New Forest in Hampshire. The constant tradition of the neighbourhood states, that when William Rufus met his untimely end in that forest, there lived near the fatal oak a poor "coleman," or maker of charcoal, who lent his cart for the purpose of conveying the royal corpse to Winchester, and was rewarded with an acre or two of land round his hut. His immediate descendants of the same name live there still, and yet carry on the same trade, without one being richer than another for it. This family is deemed the most antient in the county. (*Gough's Camden.*) According to a recent newspaper paragraph, the last representative of this antient plebeian line is lately deceased.



CHAPTER VII.

OF SURNAMES DERIVED FROM CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIGNITIES, AND FROM OFFICES.



LOSELY allied to the Surnames discussed in the preceding chapter are those which were originally borrowed from dignities and offices.

The following lists of names of this class are arranged according to the rules of precedence.

CIVIL DIGNITIES.

EMPEROR,
KING,
PRINCE,
DUKE,
MARQUIS,
EARLE,
BARRON (*sic*),

LORD,
KNIGHT,
CHEVALIER,
SQUIRE,
GENTLEMAN,
YEOMAN ;

to which may be added the corrupt latinizations, *Prinsep* (princeps), and *Armingier* (armiger.)

ECCLESIASTICAL DIGNITIES.

POPE,	PRIEST,
CARDINAL,	DEACON, DEAKIN, &c.
BISHOP, BYSSHOPP, &c.	CLERK, CLARKE, &c.*
ABBOTT,	CHAPLIN (CAPLIN ?),
PRIOR, PRYOR,	FRIAR, FRYER, FREERE,
DEAN (qu. local ?),	FRERE (Chaucer, passim),
ARCHDEACON,	MONK,
RECTOR,	NUNN (!),
PARSONS,	SAXTON ;
VICAR (VICKERS),	

and the latinized form, *Pontifex* ; to which may be added, *Benet* (now *Bennett*), one of the orders of the Catholic church, the ‘exorcista,’ conjuror, or caster out of evil spirits, and *Colet*, an acolyte, the fourth of the minor orders of priests. “Boniface V,” says Becon, “decreed that such as were but *benet* and *colet* should not touch the reliques of saints, but they only which are subdeacons, deacons, and priests.”† *Noviss* (novice) is likewise a surname, and *Lister* is in all probability the Anglo-Saxon ‘*listre*,’ a person who read some part of the church service.

The following offices have lent their designations as surnames : *Alderman*, *Bailey*, *Beadle*, *Botiler* or *Butler*, *Burgess*, *Chancellor*, *Chamberlayne*, *Constable*, *Castellan*, *Champion* (and *Campion*), *Councilman*, *Catchpole*, *Forester*, *Falconer* (often written *Falconar*, and still oftener *Fawkner* and *Faulkner*), *Groome*, *Henchman*,

* Adam the clerk, son of Philip the scribe, occurs as the designation of a person mentioned in an antient record at Newcastle.

† Way’s Prompt. Parv. in voc. ‘Benett.’

Legatt (i. e. legate), *Mayor* (with its French form *Lemaire*, and the O. Eng. *Meyer*), *Marshall*, *Provost* (with its corruption *Provis*), *Page*, *Proctor*, *Porter*, *Portman*, *Ranger*, *Reeve* (pluralized to *Reeves*), *Steward* (and *Stewart* or *Stuart*, by crasis *Sturt*?), *Sizar*, *Sheriff* (with *Shireff*), *Serjeant* (corruptly *Sargent*), *Tipstaff*, *Ussher*, *Warden*, and *Woodreeve*, with its various forms of *Woodriff*, *Woodroafe*, *Woodruff*, *Woodrough*, and (probably) *Woodrow*.

The names of many offices, obsolete either as to themselves or as to their antient designations, are retained as family names, as—

Chalmers (Scot.) = *Camerarius*, chamberlain.

Le Despenser, corruptly *Spencer*, a steward. *Horden* has the same import. The ancestor of the family of *Spencer*, Duke of Marlborough, was ‘dispensator’ or steward to the household of William the Conqueror. *Grosvenor*, antiently held the office of *le Gros Veneur*, or great huntsman to the Dukes of Normandy.

Bannerman, in Scotland, was a name of office, borne by the king’s standard-bearer. It was an hereditary post, and existed temp. Malcolm IV, and William the Lion.*

‘Seneschal,’ a steward, is now vilely corrupted to *Snashall*!

Staller, according to Camden, is a standard-bearer.

Foster, a nourisher—one who had the care of the children of great men. We have also *Nurse*, as a surname. *Foster*, however, is sometimes a corruption of ‘forester.’

Kempe, a soldier, especially one who engaged in single combat. In this sense it has been revived in the works

* Nisbet. Syst. of Heraldry, vol. i, p. 405.

of Sir Walter Scott. *Kempes* and *kemperye-men* for warriors or fighting-men occur in the ballad of King Estmere in Percy's Reliques :

“ They had not ridden scant a myle,
 A myle forthe of the towne,
 But in did come the kynge of Spayne,
 With *kempes* many a one.
 Up then rose the *kemperye-men*
 And loud they gan to crye
 Ah! traytors, you have slayne our kynge,
 And therefore you shall dye.”

A *kemper* is still used in Norfolk in the sense of a stout, hearty, old man—a veteran. The A.-S. *cempa* has also supplied us with the surnames *Camp*, *Champ*, and *Camper*. *Campion* and *Champion* have come to us through the French, from the same root. The Swedish *Kempenfelt* and the Spanish *Campeador* belong to this family. *Kimber* is also synonymous; “*kimber*, enim, homo bellicosus, pugil robustus, miles, &c. significat.”*

‘Bate’ is conflict, contention; and hence *Bateman* is a member of the same belligerent tribe.

Segar and *Seagar*, (A.-S. *sigere*), a vanquisher. So says Verstegan; but a Northern correspondent informs me that this is a provincialism for ‘sawyer.’

Wardroper, a keeper of the royal wardrobe: the officer bore this designation temp. Hen. VIII.

Latimer. This name was first given to Wrenoc ap Merrick, a learned Welshman, who held certain lands by the service of being *latimer* or interpreter between the Welsh and the English; and the name of his office descended to his posterity, who were afterwards ennobled as English peers.† The older and more correct form is

* Sheringham.

† Vide Burke's Ext. Peerage.

latiner, one who understands Latin. Maundevile directs travellers to take with them "*Latyneres* to go with hem into tyme (until) they conne the langage."

Valvasour (now more generally written *Vavasour*), an office or dignity taking rank below a baron, and above a knight. Bracton says, "there are for the civil government of mankind, emperors, kings, and princes, magnates, or *valvasours*, and knights." In the Norman reigns there was a king's *valvasour*, whose duty probably consisted in keeping ward *ad valvas Regni*, at the entrances and borders of the realm; whence the name.

Arblast, a corruption of *Balistarius*, one who directed the great engines of war used before the invention of cannon, a crossbow-man.

" In the kernils (battlements) here and there,
Of *Arblastirs* grete plentie were;
None armour might ther stroke withstonde,
It were foly to prese to honde." *Rom. of the Rose.*

From another form of the word—'Alblastere,' comes the apparently absurd name *Alabaster*.

Spigurnell, a sealer of writs.

Avery. Camden places this among Christian names, but query, is it not the name of an office—*Aviarius*, a keeper of the birds? The Charter of Forests (section 14) enacts that "every freeman may have in his woods *avyries* of sparhawks, falcons, eagles, and herons." But there is another distinct derivation of this name, for *avery*, according to Bailey, signifies "a place where the oats (*avenæ*) or provender are kept for the king's horses."

Franklin, a dignity next to the esquires and gentlemen of olden times, the antient representative of the class of superior freeholders, known in later times as

country 'squires. Fortescue (De Legibus Angliæ, c. 29) describes a *franklein* as "pater-familias—magnis ditatus possessionibus." "Moreover, the same country (namely England) is so filled and replenished with landed menne, that therein so small a thorpe cannot be found wherein dwelleth not a knight or an esquire, or such a householder as is there commonly called a *franklein*, enriched with great possessions, and also *other freeholders* and many yeomen, able for their livelyhood to make a jury in form aforementioned."* Chaucer's description of a Franklin is everything that could be wished:

"A FRANKELEIN was in this compaignie ;
 White was his berd, as is the dayesie.
 Of his complexion he was sanguin.
 Wel loved he by the morwe a sop in win[e]
 To liven in delit was ever his wone,
 For he was Epicuré's owen sone,
 That held opinion that plein delit
 Was veraily felicite parfite.
 An housholder, and that a grete was he ;
 Seint Julian,† he was in his contree ;
 His brede, his ale, was alway after on ;
 A better *envyned*‡ man was no wher non,
 Withouten bake-mete never was his hous,
 Of fish and flesh, and that so plenteous,
 It snewed in his hous of mete and drinke,
 Of alle daintees that men coud of thinke,
 After the sondry sesons of the yere,
 So changed he his mete and his soupere.
 Ful many a fat partrich hadde he in mewe,
 And many a breme, and many a luce in stewe.
 Wo was his coke, but if his saucé were
 Poinant and sharpe, and ready all his gere.

* Old Translation of Fortescue de L. L. Ang.

† St. Julian was the patron of hospitality.

‡ *Envyned*, that is, stored with wine.

His table dormant in his halle alway
 Stode redy covered alle the longé day.
 At sessions ther was he lord and sire,
 Ful often time he was knight of the shire;
 An anelace, and a gipciere all of silk
 Heng at his girdel, white as morwe milk.
 A shereve hadde he ben, and a countour.
 Was no wher swiche a worthy vavasour.”*

Heriot, a provider of furniture for an army. *Versteg*.

Cohen, a common name amongst the Jews, signifies priest.

Somner, one whose duty consisted in citing delinquents to the ecclesiastical courts; an apparitor. The office existed in Chaucer's time under the orthography of *sompnoure*, literally summoner—*sompne* being then the mode of spelling the verb. In the Coventry Mysteries we have the following:

“*Sim SOMNOR*, in hast wend thou thi way,
 Byd Joseph, and his wyff, be name,
At the coorte to apper this day,
 Hem to pource of her defame.”

Chaucer's portrait of the Sompnour is one of the best in his inimitable gallery. He

“ hadde a fire-red cherubinnes face

* * * * *

With scalled browes blake and pilled berd,
 Of his visāge children were sore aférd.
 [He loved] to drinke strong wīn as rede as blood,
 Then wolde he speke, and crie as he were wood.
 And whan that he wel dronken had the wīn,
 Than wolde he speken no word but Latīn.
A fewé termes coude† he, two or three
 That he had lerned out of som decree;

* Canterbury Tales. Prologue. Vol. i, p. 44. Edit. 1825.

† He knew.

*No wonder is, he herd it all the day ;
 And eke ye knowen wel, how that a jay
 Can clepen watte, as wel as can the pope.
 But who so wolde in other thing him grope,*
 Than hadde he spent all his philosophie,
 Ay, *Questio quid juris*, wolde he crie," &c. &c.†*

To this list of official names I may add *Judge* ; but how the word *Jury* became the name of a single person I do not pretend to guess. (On reconsideration, '*Jury*' appears to be a corrupt spelling of *Jewry*, and is therefore a local name. That part of a city or town inhabited by Jews was formerly styled 'the Jewrie,' as the Old Jewry in London. Chaucer, in his Prioress's Tale (14899), says :

"There was in Acy (Asia) in a great citee,
 Amonges Cristen folk a *Jewerye*,
 Susteyned by a lord of that contré,
 For foul usure, and lucre of felonye,
 Hateful to Crist and to his compaignie :
 And thurgh *the strete* men might ride and wende,
 For it was fre, and open at everich ende."

Foreman was probably adopted by some one who had served on a jury in that capacity. Association of ideas reminds me of another important functionary, *Dempster*, the common hangman, unless indeed it signify a judge of the Isle of Man, as the judges of that little kingdom formerly bore this designation. *Lockman* is a Scottish word for the public executioner.

Several names end in *grave*, meaning a steward or disposer; as *Waldegrave*, a steward of the forest; *Margrave*, a steward or warden of the marches or frontiers; *Hargrave*, the provider of an army. I think, however, that these names were not indigenous to England, but

* Examine.

† Cant. Tales, Prologue.

brought from Germany, where **Graf** is synonymous with count, and 'Pfalzgraf,' whence our *Palgrave*, is a count-palatine. *Grave*, in Lancashire, especially in the disafforested districts, means a constable, and constables' rates are called 'grave-leys.' A 'dikereeve' or 'dike-grave,' in Lincolnshire, means one who has the care of dikes and drains. *Dykeman* and *Dickman* probably signify the same official.

Pilgrim and *Palmer* are neither offices nor dignities, yet they may find a place here. The *Palmer* differed from a common pilgrim in making a *profession* of wandering. The pilgrim laid aside his weed and cockle when his pilgrimage was done, and returned to the world; but the palmer wandered about incessantly; his pilgrimage was only laid aside at death. He derived his name from the *palm-branch* he constantly carried as a pledge of his having been in the Holy Land. In the church of Snodland, in the diocese of Rochester, was formerly an inscription to the memory of PALMER, of Otford, Esq. containing several puns or allusions to this name and profession.

"Palmers all ovr Faders were,
 If a Palmer liuyd here,
 And traupl'd still, till worne wyth age,
 I endyd this world's pylgramage.
 On the blyst Assention-day,
 In the cherful month of May,
 A thowsand wyth fowre hundryd, seuen,
 And took my iorney hense to Heuen."

Sir Walter Scott has given us a sketch of a palmer in "Marmion :"

"Here is a holy *Palmer* come
 From Salem first, and last from Rome,
 One that hath kissed the blessed tomb,

And visited each holy shrine
 In Araby and Palestine;
 On hills of Armenie hath been,
 Where Noah's ark may yet be seen;
 By that Red Sea too hath he trod
 Which parted at the Prophet's rod;
 In Sinai's wilderness he saw
 The Mount where Israel heard the law,
 Mid thunder-dint and flashing levin,*
 And shadowy mists and darkness given.
 He shows St. James's cockle shell;
 Of fair Montserrat too can tell;
 And of that Grot where olives nod,
 Where, darling of each heart and eye,
 From all the youth of Sicily
 Saint Rosalie retired to God.

* * * * *

His sable cowl o'erhung his face;
 In his black mantle was he clad;
 With Peter's keys in cloth of red
 On his broad shoulders wrought;
 The scallop-shell his cap did deck;
 The crucifix around his neck
 Was from Loretto brought;
 His sandals were with travel tore,
 Staff, budget, bottle, scrip he wore;
 The faded *palm-branch* in his hand
 Shewed pilgrim from the Holy Land."

* *Levin*, lightning. I have a cordial hatred of the hypercritical spirit which delights in preferring the charge of plagiarism against any poet who happens to express a sentiment in words resembling those of some previous author; it is not therefore out of any such feeling that I beg to call the attention of the reader to the striking resemblance between Scott's line—

"Mid thunder-dint and flashing levin,"

and Chaucer's (v. 5858 Wright),

"With wilde thunder dynt and fuyry leveene"—

, which is probably purely accidental.

The origin of the name of *Gear* is curious. In the "olden tyme" great men employed an officer to superintend the provision of their entertainments and the equipment of their armed retainers; and, as all sorts of wearing apparel, arms,* utensils, and chattels in general, were called *gere* or *gear*, this person would very naturally acquire the name of *John-of-the-Gear*, *John-o-Gear*, and, at length, *John Gear*.

The termination *ward* indicates some office, and is equivalent to *keeper* or *custos*—thus *Milward* is the keeper of a mill (probably some manorial or monastic mill); *Kenward*, the dog-keeper, or more properly, *Kine-ward*, cow-keeper; *Aylward*, the ale-keeper; *Durward*, the porter or door-keeper; *Hayward*, the keeper of a common herd of cattle belonging to some town; and *Woodward*, a forest-keeper, "an officer that walks with a forest-bill, and takes cognizance of all offences committed, at the next swain-mote or court of attachments."† *Howard* certainly belongs to this family of names, but antiquaries are not agreed as to the meaning of the first syllable. Camden makes it the *high-warden*; Spelman, the *hall-keeper*; Verstegan, the *keeper of a strong-hold*; and Skinner, a *keeper of hospitality*. What such great names cannot agree upon, I shall not attempt to decide. *Ward* also stands as a surname, as do *Warden* and *Guard*, which have the same meaning.

Costomer, a collector of customs.

* Thus in the old poem of Flodden Field:

"Then did he send Sir William Bulmer,
And bad hym on the borders lye,
With ordinance and other *gear*,
Each fenced house to fortify."

† Bailey's Dict.

Granger, the superintendent of a grange—a great farm pertaining to some abbey or priory.

Portman, an officer, now called a *portreeve*, with duties similar to those of a mayor. The sessions of some of the older corporations were formerly called *portmannimotes*, or portman's courts.

Landseer, probably a land-steward or bailiff.

Palliser, a person who had the care of the palings of a park or forest.

Poynder, a bailiff, one who distrains.

The singular name of *Twentyman* appears to be a translation of *Vintenarius*, a military officer who had the charge of twenty soldiers, as the *Centenarius*, his superior, had of a hundred. Both these terms occur in a muster-roll of temp. Edw. III, before me.

Having given this long list of names derived from titles and offices, I shall next attempt to account for their having been adopted as the designations of families.

That the first of the name of King, Prince, or Duke, held either of those dignities is too preposterous for belief. Nor is it more likely that the inferior titles of Knight and Squire were so derived, for that would have been a mean kind of nomenclature. If a person were really a knight or an esquire, he would prefer styling himself Sir Roger de Such-a-place, or John So-and-So, Esquire, to taking the simple designation of his rank as a surname. Again, in ecclesiastical dignities, such names if adopted could not have been perpetuated, seeing that all churchmen, from his holiness of Rome down to the meanest mass-priest, led a life of celibacy, and consequently had no *recognised* posterity.

It has been conjectured, however, that these names indicate bastardy, and that the persons bearing them are thus *bona fide* of royal, papal, knightly, *squirely*, or

priestly descent—a plausible surmise, but the proofs are wanting.

Most of these names, particularly of the secular description, were probably borrowed from the first users of them having acted or personated such characters in mysteries or dramatic representations; or from their having been chosen, as Camden supposes, leaders of the popular sports of the times, as Kings of the Bean, Christmas Lords, &c. The same high authority reminds us that the classical antients had such names as “Basilius, Archias, Archelaus, Flaminus, Cæsarius, Augustulus, &c., who, notwithstanding, were neither Kings, Priests, Dukes, nor Cæsars;” though Sigonius thinks the Flaminii and the Pontificii descendants of persons who held the sacerdotal office.

There are those who think the clerical names originated from *widowers*, who had gone into the church and gained particular offices in it, having given the designations of such offices as surnames to their children. The Rev. Mark Noble thinks that such as took these names held lands under those who really bore them. This may be true of some of them, both lay and clerical, but it does not account for the higher dignities, as Pope and Emperor, which have never existed in this country. Of all these conjectures, Camden’s, although the most humiliating, seems the most probable.

The French name of *Archevesque* (Archbishop) is thus accounted for. Hugh de Lusignan, an archbishop, becoming unexpectedly entitled to the seignories of Parthenay, Soubize, &c., obtained the pope’s dispensation to marry, on the condition that his posterity should take the name of *Archbishop*, and bear, for ever, a mitre over their arms.

Mr. Kemble mentions an instance of an Anglo-Saxon, A. D. 653, who, according to Florence of Worcester, bore the name of Benedictus Biscop (bishop), but who certainly never enjoyed episcopal honours. And Eadberht, the last trueborn king of Kent, was surnamed 'Pren,' or the priest: this personage, however, had received ordination to the clerical office prior to his advancement to the regal dignity.

None of the objections just adduced apply to surnames borrowed from offices of the inferior kind, as Steward, Reeve, Parker, &c.; and we have evidence that family names were borrowed from the offices held by the founders of houses. According to Carew, the *Porters* of Cornwall derived their name from the office of porter of Trematon Castle, antiently hereditary in the family under the Dukes of Cornwall. We have already seen that the name of Spencer originated in a similar manner; but there is a more illustrious instance. The name of STUART, borne for centuries by the regal family of Scotland and England, descended to them from Walter, grandson of Banquo, who in the eleventh century was *steward* of Scotland.

In conclusion, I may remark that these high-sounding surnames are a very numerous class. Almost every village has its *King* or *Prince*, or at least its *Knight* or *Squire*. *Bishops* are, I think, rather more numerous than parish churches; and as for *Popes*, it is no unusual circumstance to find *eight* or *ten* dwelling together in perfect amity, a thing never heard of at Rome, where only *two* have been known to set Christendom in a blaze! The following humorous *morceau* will form an appropriate tail-piece to my present Chapter.

“**True Copy** of a jury taken before Judge Doddridge, at the assizes holden at Huntingdon, A. D. 1619.” [It is necessary to remark that “the judge had, in the preceding circuit, censured the sheriff for empanneling men not qualified by rank for serving on the grand jury, and the sheriff, being a humourist, resolved to fit the judge with sounds at least. On calling over the following names, and pausing emphatically at the end of the Christian, instead of the surname, his lordship began to think he had indeed a jury of quality]:

“ Maximilian KING of Toseland,
Henry PRINCE of Godmanchester,
George DUKE of Somersham,
William MARQUIS of Stukeley,
Edmund EARL of Hartford,
Richard BARON of Bythorn,
Stephen POPE of Newton,
Stephen CARDINAL of Kimbolton,
Humphrey BISHOP of Buckden,
Robert LORD of Waresley,
Robert KNIGHT of Winwick,
William ABBOTT of Stukeley,
Robert BARON of St. Neots.
William DEAN of Old Weston,
John ARCHDEACON of Paxton,
Peter ESQUIRE of Easton,
Edward FRYER of Ellington,
Henry MONK of Stukeley,
George GENTLEMAN of Spaldwick,
George PRIEST of Graffham,
Richard DEACON of Catworth.

“ The judge, it is said, was highly pleased with this

practical joke, and commended the sheriff for his ingenuity. The descendants of some of these illustrious jurors still reside in the county, and bear the same names; in particular, a Maximilian King, we are informed, still presides over Toseland.”*

* History of Huntingdon, 12mo, 1824.



CHAPTER VIII.

OF SURNAMES DEDUCED FROM PERSONAL AND MORAL QUALITIES ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR ORIGINAL BEARERS.



OF all the modes of distinguishing an individual (observes Salverte) "the most natural, and the one which best unites the identity and the name of the person, is that of giving a designation which relates to his most conspicuous qualities,"—and a truly prolific source of nomenclature it has been.

In almost all countries, and in nearly every stage of civilization, individuals have been denominated from some physical quality or external peculiarity. The Greeks had their Pyrrhus, Chlorus, Strabo, Chryses; the Romans their Candidus, Rutilus, Longus, Paulus; the French their Blond, Petit, Front-de-Bœuf; and the Anglo-Saxons their Micel, Swanhals, Irensida.

So also of moral and mental peculiarities: the Greeks imposed such names as Agathias, Andragathius, Sophocles; the Romans, such as Pius, Prudentius, Constans; the Anglo-Saxons, such as Prat, Alfred, Godard; and the French, such as Le Sage, Le Bon, Genereux, Prudent.

These were all in their primary application strictly *personal*, though in the course of time they became,

like the other classes already discussed, *generic* and *hereditary* designations among modern nations.

COLOUR AND COMPLEXION have given rise to such surnames as *Black*, *Blackman*, *Blaunkfrount* (i. e. white face), *Browne*, *Dark*, *Darkman*, *Fair*, *Fairbairn* (Scot.), *Fairchild*, *Fagg* (A.-S. faeg), discoloured, pale, *Lilywhite*, *Motley*, *Pink*, *Rufus*, *Rous*, *Russell* (and the French Rousseau—these four mean ‘red’), *Redman*, *Ruddiman*, *Silversides*, *Scurlett*, *White*, *Whiteman*, and *Whitesides*. *Purple*, which occurs in America, may have been originally applied to a devotee of Bacchus! As no person ever had a *green face* (however *green* in other respects) we must refer the very common surname representing that colour to a local origin—‘John atte Greene,’ ‘Roger a’ Green,’ &c. being among the most familiar designations of that class.

THE COLOUR OF THE HAIR led to a numerous train of these hereditary *sobriquets*, for such they certainly must be considered; hence *Blackhead*, *Blacklock*, *Fairhaire*, *Grey*, *Gray*, *Grissel*, *Hoare* and *Hore*, *Redhead*, *Silverlock*, *Whitelock*, *Whithair*, *Whitehead*, and *Yalowhaire*.

THE FORM OF THE HEAD has added a few; to wit, *Longhead*, *Broadhead*, *Greathead*, *Halfhead*.—*Groteste* (great-head), a famous name in English ecclesiastical history, also belongs to this category. Even the beard originated some, as *Langbeard*, *Fairbeard*, *Hevyberd*, (1296,) *Blackbeard*.

But it was not from the head alone that names of this description were taken, for we have in respect of other personal qualities our *Longs* and our *Shorts*; our *Langmans*, *Longmans*, and *Longfellows*; our *Tallmans* and our *Prettymans*; our *Biggs* and our *Eroads*; our *Greats* and our *Smalls*; our *Strongs* and our *Weakleys*;

our *Petits* and *Smallmans*; our *Strongmans*, *Strongi'th'-arms*, and *Armstrongs*; our *Plaines* and our *Hansoms*; our *Groses*, our *Littles*, our *Thynnes*, our *Thicks*, and our *Lowes*. These names are of a pretty positive character, but we have a few comparatives; our *Littlers* and *Shorters*, to wit, our *Plainers*, our *Strongers*, and our *Lowers*!

To avoid criticism on one hand, and misapprehension on the other, it is right to state that some of the names in the last paragraph are derived with greater probability from other sources. Two or three at least are of the *local* kind, such as *Plain*, and probably also *Plainer*; *Littler* is known to be a corruption of *Littleover*, co. Derby,—a manor whose lords originally wrote themselves *De Littleover*, but who afterwards became *Litteler* and *Littler*, until eventually they were quite extinct! Neither must we take the *Thynnes* as living witnesses of the meagreness of their original ancestor, who was no other than one John de Botteville. This gentleman, who flourished so recently as the reign of Edward IV, resided at one of the Inns of Court, and was thence named John of the Inn, John o'th'ynne, or John Thynne.

We have, moreover, our *Prettys* and our *Lovelys*,* our *Larges* and our *Pettys*, our *Fatts* and our *Stouts*, together with our *Swifts*, our *Quicks*, our *Speeds*, and *Lightfoots*, and *Quicklys*, well balanced by our less mercurial *Slows* and *Slowmans*, and our more deliberate *Heavisides*.

There are other surnames no less characteristic; though less intelligible to ordinary observers. Among these may be noted *Starkie*, strong-bodied; *Fiest*,

* 'Editha la Lovelich.' MS. Harl. 1708, fol. 217.

broad-footed ; *Crumpe*, crooked ; *Mewet*, one who speaks inwardly ; *Lizar*, a leprous person ; *Morphew*, a scrofulous one ; *Michel* (A.-S.), great, whence also *Michell* and *Mitchell* ; *Hale*, healthful ; *Holder*, thin (Camd.) ; and *Fleet*, swift. *Bel*, with *LE* prefixed, is from the French, fair ; and *Pigot*, with its varieties *Piggott* and *Pickett* (picoté), in the same language means pitted with the smallpox. *Car* and *Ker* are synonymous, signifying stout. *Wychals* (A.-S.), now *Wiggles*, means ‘bad neck.’ *Lit* and *Lite* are old English forms of ‘little.’

Snell is from the Anglo-Saxon, and signifies agile or hardy. “Eadmund cing Iren-jid pær Ʒeclȳpōð ƿop hīƷ Snell-Ʒcipe : King Eadmund was called Iron-side for his hardihood, agility,” says the Saxon Chronicle. Before the Conquest this epithet had become a proper name, as had also its compound, *Snelson*. *Basset* (Fr.) signifies low of stature.

To *dade*, in some dialects, signifies to walk with short steps, whence the diminutive ‘daddle,’ applied to the pace of infants. *Dadd* or *Dade* was probably given in the first instance to some person who had shorter legs than his neighbours.

The very common surname *Read*, *Reid*, or *Reed* (sometimes pluralized to *Reeds*), is an old spelling of *RED*, and was primarily applied in reference to complexion. Chaucer speaks of

“Floures both white and *rede* ;”

and Sir John Maundevile, describing the Red Sea, says : “That see is not more *reed* than another see ; but in some places thereof is the gravelle *reede* ; and therefore men clepen it the *Rede* Sea.”

Fairfax, from the Anglo-Saxon, and *Blound*, from the

French, denote a light hair and complexion. The latter name has declined into *Blount* and *Blunt*.

Camoy's is an Old English word signifying turned upwards; and is generally applied to the nose in a sense identical with the French expression '*nez retroussé*.' Chaucer employs it in his quaint description of the daughter of the Miller of Trompington :

"This wenche thikke and well i-grownen was,
With *camoy's* nose and eyghen gray as glas."

Wright's Chaucer, 3971.

It is sometimes written '*camuse*,' and our surname *Kemyss* may mean the same thing.

Among the names indicative of mental or moral qualities, we have our *Hardys* and our *Cowards*; our *Meeks* and our *Moodys*; our *Bolds* and our *Slyes*; our *Livelys* and our *Sullens*; our *Eagers* and our *Dulmans*; our *Giffords* or liberal ones, and our *Curteises*. CURTEIS appears to be an antient spelling of the adjective *courteous*. Chaucer says of his "yong squier"—

"*Curteis* he was, gentil and affable."

So in Percy's Reliques :

"And as the lyounne, which is of bestis kinge,
Unto thy subjectis be *kurteis* and benygne."

Nor must we overlook our *Wilds* and our *Sangwines*; our *Merrys* and our *Sobers*; our *Nobles* and our *Willey's*, or favorable ones; our *Blythes* and our *Cleeres*; our *Sternes* and our *Bonnys*; our *Godmans* and our *Godlimans*; our *Wakes* or watchfuls; our *Terrys* or tearful ones;* our *Forwards* and our *Wises*; our

* Verstegan; a more probable derivation is from the Fr. Thierry, Theodoric.

Wooralls or worth-alls,* our *Aylwins*, or beloved of all; our *Proudes* and our *Humbles*; our *Sharpes* and our *Blunts*; our *Sweets* and our *Sweetmans*, not forgetting our *Bitters*; our *Illmans* and our *Freemans*;† our *Wisemans* and our *Booklesses*; our *Stables* and our *Hasties*; our *Gentles* and our *Lawlesses*; our *Giddys* and our *Carelesses*; our *Perts*, our *Recklesses*, and our *Peaceables*; our *Stiffs* and our *Stills*; our *Roughs* and our *Toughs*; our *Sadds* and our *Merrymans*; our *Innocents* and our *Peerlesses*; our *Luckies* and our *Faithfuls*; our *Tidys* and our *Tidymans*; our *Gaudys* and our *Decents*; our *Gallants* and our *Trustys*; our *Dearloves* and our *Trueloves*; our *Truemans* and our *Thankfuls*; our *Brisks* and our *Doolittles*‡, our *Dears* and our *Darlings*; our *Closes* and our *Allfrees*; our *Brightmans* and our *Flatmans*; and, to close this long catalogue, our *Goods*,§ *Goodmans*, *Goodchilds*,§ *Goodfellows*, our *Thoroughgoods*, *Allgoods*, *Bests*, *Perfects*, and *Goodenoughs*, our *Conquergoods*, and what is very extraordinary indeed, our *Toogoods*!

Idle, for the honour of the family bearing it, I would rather deduce from the river so designated, than insinuate that the founder of that name and lineage was deficient in industry.

Some names of this class, also, convey no meaning to the uninitiated observer, and others may even give rise to an erroneous impression; for instance *Gaylord*

* So *Verstegan*, *Restit.*; but more probably from *Wirral* in Cheshire.

† The name *Fry* is a modernized spelling of *Frie*, free.

‡ *Goad*, a corrupt spelling of the O. E. *gode*, good.

§ The French likewise have *Goodman* and *Goodson*—*Bonhomme* and *Bonfils*. The surname of Pope Gregory XIII was *Buoncompagno*, *good companion*, and that of his secretary of the treasury *Buonfigliuolo*, *good son*.

(gaillard, Fr. gaylard, O. E.) has no reference to aristocratical gaieties, but means simply jovial or jolly :

“ A prentys dwelled whilom in oure citee,
And of a craft of vitailers was he :
Gaylard he was as goldfynch in the schawe,
Brown as a bery, and a proper felawe.”

Wright's Chaucer, 4364.

Ramage (A.-Norman,) is wild, haggard, or homely. Mr. Halliwell says it was very often applied to an untaught hawk. “ So *ramage* as she would be reclaimed with no leave.” (Gwydonius, 1593.)

Lelhome is probably *true* or *leal* man ; and *Follet*, which is also French, signifies foolish.

Leeny, according to Grose, is active, alert ; hence *Leaney* and *Leney*.

Stunt (A.-S.) means stupid, foolish ; taken substantively it means a fool, by no means an enviable designation, but far from applicable to all who bear it. In a Saxon translation of the book of Job, that patriarch calls his wife “ stunt wif,” i. e. a foolish woman. *Widmer* (‘wyd’ wide, and ‘mear’ fame, A.-S.) widely renowned ; *Hubbard* (‘hughbert,’ A.-S.) disposed to joy and gladness ; *Joyce* (Fr.), the same ; *Hogarth* (Dutch,) high-natured, generous ; *Shire* (A.-S.) clear ; *Baud*, pleasant ; *Rush*, subtle ; *Barrat*, cunning ; *Bowne*, ready ; *Bonner* (Fr. bonaire, O. E. boner,) kind, gracious. *Eldridge* is defined by Percy as wild, hideous, ghostly. See a description of an “ Eldridge knight,” in the ballad of Sir Cauline. *Joliffe* is the O. E. ‘jolif,’ jolly.

“ Up ryst this *jolyf* lover Absolon.” *Chaucer*, 3688.

To this list of names from personal and mental qualities, I may appropriately adjoin such as had their

origin in some feat of personal strength or courage, as *Armstrong* (already mentioned), *All-fraye*, *Langstaff*, *Wagstaff*, *Hackstaff*, *Hurlbat*,* *Winspear*, *Shakeshaft*, *Shakestaff*, and *Shakspeare*, or, as Mr. C. Knight will have it, *Shakspere*. Also *Box-all*, *Tirebuck*, *Turnbull*, and *Breakspear*, which last was the original name of our countryman, Pope Hadrian the Fourth.

"*Harman*," observes Verstegan, "should rightly be *Heartman*, to wit, a man of heart or courage." It also signifies a soldier or constable, in both which vocations "heart, or courage" is necessary. *Holman* may be 'Wholeman,' a man of undeniable valour—a man, every inch of him. Analogous to this etymology is that of the patrial noun *Alman* or German, which, according to Verstegan, "is as much to say as ALL or WHOLLY MAN," attributed to that nation "in regard to their great manliness and valour."

In some of our provincial dialects a *Dummerel* or *Dumbrell* is a silent person, and *Dunch* means deaf or dull. The not very dissimilar name of *Dench* means, in the north of England, squeamish or dainty. *Smelt*, though the name of a fish, is more probably the A.-S. adjective signifying gentle, placid, mild. 'To coll,' in the North, is to saunter, to idle; hence a *Coller* is an idler.

Surnames of the descriptive class assume a very ludicrous appearance when ranged in a list and followed by the baptismal name; for example:

Black Barnabas,	Careless Eliza,
Brown Benjamin,	Godly Obadiah,
Blunt Timothy,	Long Sarah,
Bonny Simon,	Perfect Lucy,

* *Bat* is an O. E. word still used in Sussex and elsewhere for any thick stick or bludgeon, *unde* cricket-bat.

Proud Fanny,	Sterne Nicholas,
Pretty Jane,	Smart Isabella,
Peerless Peter,	Sharp Walter,
Savage Solomon,	Wild Caleb.

Nor is the effect much less odd with such names as the following :

Bachelor Mary,	Farmer Laura,
Champion Anna,	King Caroline,
Duke Dorothy,	Pope Susannah,
Friend Jonathan,	Squire Marmaduke,
Fisher Anne,	Wheeler Emma.

But to return : *Wight* is strong, and *Doughty* formidable, (A.-S. dohtig.)

“ Lordynges, lysten, and you shal here,
 You shall well heare of a knight,
 That was in warre full *wyght*,
 And *doughtye* of his dede.” *Dowsabell.*

Many names of Welsh or Gaelic origin, common in England, have similar meanings : thus, *More*, great ; *Begg*, little ; *Roy*, red ; *Duff*, *Dove*, *Dow*, *Dee*, black ; *Bane* (whence belike *Baynes*), white or fair ; *Vaughan*, little ; *Moel*, or *Mole*, bald ; *Gam*, crooked ; *Fane*, slender ; *Grimm*, strong ; *Gough*, red ; *Gwynne*, white ; *Greig* and *Gregg*, hoarse ; *Gleg*, quick ; *Balloch*, spotted in the face.

There are certain surnames which I have the greatest difficulty in assigning to any particular class. *Gladman* may have been the appropriate name originally applied to some jocund individual ; though an esteemed correspondent suggests two other origins for it ; namely, 1, that it is a corruption of (clad-man) clothman ; and

2, that as 'gley'd' or 'gleed,' in Scotland, means squinting as applied personally, or crooked as applied to things inanimate, a *gledeman* might be either a squinting man or a crooked man. What shall be said of *Deadman*, which must be acknowledged to be the most absurd name ever bestowed upon *living* creature? The somewhat similar name of *Dudman* occurs in that celebrated burlesque poem, "The Tournament of Tottenham," and Bailey defines it as "a malkin or scare-crow, a hobgoblin or spright!"



CHAPTER IX.

OF SURNAMES DERIVED FROM BAPTISMAL NAMES.

“ Mais de ces denominations individuelles et fugitives, comment se sont formés des noms de famille permanents ? ”—SALVERTE.



EVERYONE must have remarked the great number of names of this kind. Who is there among my readers who does not immediately call to mind some score or two of Edwardses, Johnsons, Stevenses, and Harrisons, in the circle of his acquaintance? Yet such names are far more common than at first sight they appear to be, as I shall prove before I arrive at the end of this Chapter; for in addition to all or nearly all the personal, Christian, or baptismal names antiently in use, a number truly surprising of *modifications* of such appellations has become part and parcel of our hereditary nomenclature. This feature is by no means peculiar to us. It obtains among the French, Germans, and other continental nations, and is nowhere more observable than in the nomenclature of ancient Rome. Salverte has remarked that there was scarcely one family name (*nomen*) which did not arise from either a *prænomen* or a *cognomen*, by simply changing the termination into *ius*, as Marcus, Marcus, Quintus, Quintus. He even goes so far as

to say that all Roman names (*nomina*) terminated in *ius* originally: such names as Peducaeus, Annaeus, having been in their primitive form Peducaius, Annaius, &c. That this *ius* signifies 'son' must be admitted by all, but whether it is derived from the Greek *υιος*, as maintained by one or two writers, I leave to abler etymologists to determine.

Among the English surnames which have been derived from baptismal names are the following:

<i>Abel,</i>	<i>Bryan,</i>	<i>Giles,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>
<i>Abraham,</i>	<i>Cecil,</i>	<i>Gilbert,</i>	<i>Matthew,</i>
<i>Absolom,</i>	<i>Charles,</i>	<i>Goddard,</i>	<i>Maurice,</i>
<i>Adam,</i>	<i>Christopher,</i>	<i>Godfrey,</i>	<i>Meredith,</i>
<i>Adelard,</i>	<i>Clement,</i>	<i>Godwin,</i>	<i>Meyrick,</i>
<i>Adolphus,</i>	<i>Cuthbert,</i>	<i>Gregory,</i>	<i>Miles,</i>
<i>Adrian,</i>	<i>Daniel,</i>	<i>Griffith,</i>	<i>Morgan,</i>
<i>Aldred,</i>	<i>David,</i>	<i>Guy,</i>	<i>Moses,</i>
<i>Alexander,</i>	<i>Dennis,</i>	<i>Henry,</i>	<i>Nathan,</i>
<i>Allen,</i>	<i>Derick,</i>	<i>Herbert,</i>	<i>Neale,</i>
<i>Ambrose,</i>	<i>Donald,</i>	<i>Hilary,</i>	<i>Nicholas,</i>
<i>Amos,</i>	<i>Dunstan,</i>	<i>Howell,</i>	<i>Noel,</i>
<i>Andrew,</i>	<i>Edgar,</i>	<i>Hubert,</i>	<i>Oliver,</i>
<i>Anthony,</i>	<i>Ellis,</i>	<i>Humphry,</i>	<i>Osbern,</i>
<i>Arnold,</i>	<i>Evan,</i>	<i>Isaac,</i>	<i>Osmond,</i>
<i>Arthur,</i>	<i>Everard,</i>	<i>James,</i>	<i>Owen,</i>
<i>Aubrey,</i>	<i>Eustace,</i>	<i>Jeffrey,</i>	<i>Paul,</i>
<i>Bardolf,</i>	<i>Fabian,</i>	<i>Lambert,</i>	<i>Percival,</i>
<i>Baldwin,</i>	<i>Francis,</i>	<i>Lawrence,</i>	<i>Philip,</i>
<i>Barnard,</i>	<i>Frederick,</i>	<i>Launcelot,</i>	<i>Ralph,</i>
<i>Bartholomew,</i>	<i>George,</i>	<i>Leonard,</i>	<i>Randal,</i>
<i>Basil,</i>	<i>Gerard,</i>	<i>Lewis,</i>	<i>Raymond,</i>
<i>Benjamin,</i>	<i>Gervaise,</i>	<i>Madoc,</i>	<i>Reynard,</i>
<i>Boniface,</i>	<i>Gideon,</i>	<i>Malachy,</i>	<i>Reynold,</i>

<i>Rice,</i>	<i>Saull,</i>	<i>Swithin,</i>	<i>Valentine,</i>
<i>Richard,</i>	<i>Silvanus,</i>	<i>Sylvester,</i>	<i>Vincent,</i>
<i>Roger,</i>	<i>Simeon,</i>	<i>Theobald,</i>	<i>Vyvian,</i>
<i>Roland,</i>	<i>Simon,</i>	<i>Thomas,</i>	<i>Walter,</i>
<i>Sampson,</i>	<i>Solomon,</i>	<i>Titus,</i>	<i>&c.</i>

Great numbers of these have been assumed in the genitive case, as John Reynolds, for John the son of Reynold, James Phillips, for James the son of Philip; others have been corrupted in various ways; thus, *Bennet* from *Benedict*, *Cutbeard* from *Cuthbert*, *Bryant* from *Brian*, *Emary* (whence *Emmerson*) from *Almeric*, *Errey* from *Eric*, &c. Others seem to be French corruptions of Latin names, as *Stace* from *Statius*, *Aurel* from *Aurelius*, *Gell* from *Gellius*.

Those who are conversant with documents belonging to the middle ages, are well aware of the disposition that then existed to make the father's christian name the surname of the child. Even at a much more recent date, the *sire-name* was frequently preferred to the stationary surname of the family. In Dr. Fiddes's 'Life of Cardinal Wolsey,' Edmund Bonner, bishop of London, is called Dr. *Edmunds*, and Stephen Gardiner, bishop of Winchester, Dr. *Stephens*. These prelates, indeed, had no children; but such instances may serve to show, nevertheless, with what facility christian names would pass into surnames in cases where there were children.*

Camden has a list of surnames, formed of such forenames as are now obsolete, and only occur in Domesday Book and other records of antient date. From this list, and from another by Dr. Pegge in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1772, p. 318, I select such as I have myself met with, omitting from the Doctor's catalogue

* Notes of a Bookworm.

those names which are still common as christian names, and adding others.*

ANSTIS (Anastasius).

AYSCOUGH, ASKEW (Asculphus). Huskisson =
Askew's son?

AUCHER.

ANSELL (Anselm).

AUSTIN (Augustine).

BAYNARD.

BRAND (*Sax. Chron.*)

BENNET (St. Benedict).

BRANDON.

BALDRIC.

BARDOLPH.

BARCHARD (Belchard).

BARRINGER (Berengerius).

BERNERS.

BRYANT (Brient).

COLEMAN (*Bede*).

CADMAN (Cædman).

CHRISTIAN.

CALFE.

DEGORY.

DURRANT (Durandus).

DREW (Drogo).

DODD. Whence Dodson.

* From this enumeration I also omit many of the names called by Camden "Christian names in use about the time of the Conquest," such as *Hasting, Howard, Talbot, Pipard, Poyntz*. What, I ask, are these but *surnames*? Does not the fact of such names occurring singly in *Doomsday Book*, add weight to the opinion I expressed at page 29?

EDOLPH (Eadulph, *Sax. Chron.*)

ELLIS (Elias).*

ELMER (Ælmer).

EVEREST, EVERY, EVERETT and VERRY (Everard).

EACHARD (Achard, *Doomsday*).

ETTY (Eddy).

EDLIN (Atheling).

EADE, EADES (Eudo).

FULKE (Fulco).

FARAND, FARRANT (Ferdinand).

FOLKARD, FOLKER (Fulcher).†

FREEMAN (Fremund).

GIRTH.

GODWIN, GOODWIN.

GOODRICH.

GOODLUCK (*Doomsday*).

GRIMES (Grime).

GUNTER (*Ingulphus*).

GAMBLE (Gamel, *Sax.*)

GRIMBELL (Grimbald).

HASSELL (Asceline).

HESKETH (Hascuith).

HARMAN (*Sax. Chron.*)—See page 146.

HODE, HOAD, HOOD (Odo).

HAKE (Haco).

HAMLIN (Hammeline).

HARDING (*Ingulph.*)

HAMMOND (Hamon).

* The Ellises of Yorkshire consider themselves to be surnamed from *Eliseux* in Normandy.

† FULCHER is evidently the origin of *Fullagar*.

HARVEY (Hervè).

HEWARD.

HERWARD.

HUBERT.

INGRAM (Ingelram).

IVE.

JARVIS (Gervaise).

JERNEGAN.

JOLLANDE.

KETTLE (Chetell, *Doomsday*).

KILLICK (Calixtus).

LUCY (Lucius).

MALLET (*Sax. Chron.*)

MAYNARD.

MASSEY (Macey, *Doomsday*).

MERVYN (Merfin).

ORSO (Urso), whence Fitz-Urse.

ODY (Odo).

ORME.

OTHER.

RELFE (Ralph).

REYNER (Reinardus).

RAYMOND.

ROTHERY (Rodericus).

ROLLE (Raoul).

STIGGINS (Stigandus or Stigand), whence Stiggson.

SAER, now SAYERS.

SEARLE (Serlo).

SEMAR.

SEWELL (Sewallus).
SEAWARD (Siwardus).*
SWAIN (Sweyn).
SEABRIGHT (Sigebert).
SELWYN.
SAVERY (Savaricus).
SANKEY (Sancho).
SEMPLE, SAMPOL (St. Paul).
SAMPIERE (St. Peter).
STYDOLPH (St. Edolph).
SAMAND (St. Amado).
SIMBERD (St. Barbe).

TANKARD (Tancred).
TIPPLE (Theobald).
TIPPET (the same).
TOLY (St. Olave).
TERRY (Theodoric).
TOVY.
TURROLD, or TURREL (Thorold).
TUDOR, *Welsh* (Theodore).

ULMER.

VIVIAN.

WISHART (Wiscard).

WADE.

WARNER.

WIMBLE, WIMBOLL (Winebald, *Doomsday*.)†

* This was also a name of office: the Anglo-Saxon Saeweard was a high admiral, who *kept* the *sea* against pirates. The surname is likewise found in the forms of Saward and Seward.

† Wimbledon, in Surrey, is probably the *tun* or enclosure of one Winebald, a Saxon.

In the remarkable discovery of Anglo-Saxon coins of the eleventh century lately made near Alfriston, co. Sussex, among the names of the moneyers occurring on the reverses, are several which are still extant as family names in this part of the country ; *e. g.*—

BRIDD (of Hastings). A family of *Breeds* is still resident in that town. ‘Brid’ is the A.-S. form of Bird.

WULGAR, now written *Woolgar* and *Woollgar*.

BOGE, hodie *Bogue*.

WULMER, now *Woolmer*.

SWETMAN, now *Sweatman* and *Sweetman*.

ELARD, hodie *Ellard*.

DUNNING has preserved its original orthography for upwards of eight centuries.*

We have a few surnames from Welsh names, as *Craddock* (from Caradoc), *Chowne* (from Chun), *Merricks* and *Meyrick* (from Meirric), *Meredith*, and *Madox*, corrupted to *Maddicks*, ‘whereby hangs a tale.’ “Are you acquainted with *mathematics*?” asked a young pedant of a country acquaintance. “No,” was the reply ; “I know *Tom Maddicks* and *Will Maddicks*, but as to *Matthy*, I never heard tell on him before.”

Next in order come the names terminating with son, as *Adamson*, *Johnson*, *Henryson*, *Clementson*, *Richardson*, *Philipson*, &c. whose derivation is clear, together with *Heardson*, *Crowson*, *Quilson*, *Wigson*, &c. from corrupted names, or from names no longer in use. Many of these were doubtless assumed before the Conquest, as we find *Grimkelson*, *Gamelson*, &c. in the time of Edward the Confessor, if not earlier. The Norman FITZ, a corruption of FILS, was used in the same way,

* It should be observed, however, that several of these names occur on coins not struck in this part of England.

and among the conquered Saxons was sometimes adopted instead; thus *Sweynsonne* and *Hardingsonne* became *Fitz-Swain* and *Fitz-Harding* ;* generally however the FITZ denotes a Norman extraction. Sometimes, but rarely, SON was appended to a profession, trade, title, or condition, as *Dukeson*, *Clarkson*, *Cookson*, *Wrightson*, *Smithson*, *Masterson*, *Stewardson*, *Hindson*, and *Widowson*.

In Scotland there are several names analogous to these, as *McMaster*, *McKnight*, *McPriest*, *McQueen*. *McBride* seems to perpetuate a scandal; but what shall be said of *McCambridge* and *McQuaker* ! It may well be supposed that some of these are corruptions.

The FITZ or SON conjoined to a female name is thought to denote illegitimacy, as *Fitz-Parnell*, *Fitz-Emma* ; *Anson*, *Eveson*, *Emson*, and *Nelson*, from Ann, Eve, Emma, and Nel or Eleanor.† So also *Susans*, *Maudlins* (Magdalene), *Anne*, *Avis* (Hawisa), *Grace*, *Hannah*, *Pegge*, that is Margery, *Betty*, *Sall*, *Nance*, *Mary*, *Rachel*, *Jane*, and the like. But it should be remembered, that the Romans occasionally used their mother's name, when born in wedlock, and that our Henry the Second called himself *Fitz-Empress*.

Other names are formed of, and upon, the cant or abbreviated Christian names; ("pardon me," saith Master Camden, "if I offend any, for it is but my *coniecture*,") as Nat for Nathaniel, Bill for William, Wat for Walter, and many such like, which you may learn of *nurses* ! Whether these odd monosyllables were

* "The use of the prefix FITZ has, with propriety, been revived in modern times. The eldest son of Harris, Earl of Malmesbury, is, by title of courtesy, Viscount Fitzharris."

† Some of these apparently female names are possibly corruptions of masculine ones; thus Anson may be Hanson—Nelson, Neilson, &c.

originally applied to children* as terms of endearment, and thus acquired the appellation of *nurse-names*, I cannot say. Camden favours this opinion. They "seem," says he, "to proceede from nurses to their nurslings; or from fathers and maisters to their boyes and seruants: for as according to the old proverbe *Omnis herus seruo monosyllabus*, in respect to their short commands; so *Omnis seruus hero monosyllabus*, in respect to the curtolling their names."

The Anglo-Saxons sometimes shortened proper names in this manner: e. g. Saba for Sæborht; Totta for Torhthelm, Sicgga for Sigefrith or for Sigibed, Eda for Eaðwine, Ælle for Ælfwine, &c. "We are led to believe," observes Mr. Kemble, "in the gradual reception by bodies of men of such misnomers as delight us in our *nurseries*, and to accept the ways of society in very early periods, not indeed as child-like but as childish."

In the fifteenth century these misnomers were so commonly applied that they were even introduced into

* How came such names as the following to be appropriated to birds, quadrupeds, and fishes?

<i>Jack-Daw.</i>	<i>Bob; Robin</i> , theredbreast.
<i>Mag-Pie</i> (Margaret).	<i>Jack-Hern</i> , the heron,
<i>Chick-a-Biddy</i> (Bridget).	<i>Will</i> , the sea-gull.
<i>Hedge-Mike</i> (Michael), the hedge-sparrow.	<i>Reynard</i> , the fox.
<i>Jack-Ass.</i>	<i>Jenny-Wren.</i>
<i>Poll-Parrot.</i>	<i>Tom-Tit</i> , the titmouse.
<i>Dicky-Bird.</i>	<i>Jack</i> , the pike.
<i>Neddy-Ass.</i>	<i>Dobbin</i> , a horse (Robert).
<i>Tib</i> , a cat (Theobald).	<i>Billy- and Nanny-Goat.</i>
<i>Tom-Cat.</i>	<i>Phipp</i> (Philip), a sparrow. (Skelton.)
<i>Gib</i> , a cat (Shakspeare, Henry IV —Gilbert).	<i>Jack-Avil</i> , a species of crab.
	<i>Tabby-Cat</i> (Tabitha).

Even inanimate things, as machines, bear similar appellations; witness *Roasting-Jack* and *Spinning-Jenny*!

legal documents. Personages of some distinction are called indifferently Roger and Hodgkyn, Walter and Watkyn, in the course of the same deed. Monarchs themselves deemed it no slight to be thus miscalled; thus our later Henries were frequently designated Harry. The poet Gower has the following verses on the occasion of Wat Tyler's insurrection, which are curious as containing several of these abbreviated names in a Latin dress :

“WATTE vocat, cui THOMA venit, neque SYMME retardat,
 BATQUE, GIBBE simul, HYKKE venire subent :
 COLLE furit, quem BOBBE juvat, nocumenta parantes
 Cum quibus ad damnum WILLE coire volat,
 GRIGGE rapit, dum DAVIE strepit, comes est quibus HOBBE,
 LARKIN et in medio non minor esse putat ;
 HUDDE ferit, quem JUDDE terit, dum TIBBE juvatur,
 JACKE domosque viros vellit, en ense necat,” &c.

Andrews has rendered these lines in the following humorous manner :

“WAT cries, TOM flies, nor SYMKIN stays aside ;
 And BATT and GIBB and HYKE, they summon loud ;
 COLLIN and BOB combustibles provide,
 While WILL the mischief forwards in the crowd ;
 GREG hawls, HOB bawls, and DAVY joins the cry,
 With LARKIN not the least among the throng ;
 HODD drubs, JUDD scrubs, while TIB stands grinning by,
 And JACK with sword and fire-brand madly strides along !”

The names of the class of which I am now treating are exceedingly numerous, as EIGHT, TEN, or even FIFTEEN surnames are sometimes formed upon a single Christian name. The name of *William*, indeed, is the basis of no less than TWENTY-NINE such names, as will be seen by referring to the list I am about to place before the reader. Besides the syllable SON, annexed

to the cant names SIM, WILL, HODGE, &c. we have three principal terminations; KIN, OT, and COCK, as *Simkin*, *Wilmot*, *Hedgecock*. Of the first two it is only necessary to state that they are diminutives; *-kin* being derived from the Flemish,* and *-ot* from the French. Thus *Timpkin* stands for "little Tim" or Timothy, and *Adcot* for "little Ade," or Adam. But the termination *cock* is not so easily disposed of. Camden appears to derive it from the male of birds: hence among his names deduced from the "winged nation," he places *Alcocke*, *Wilcocke*, and *Handcocke*; but, so far as I am acquainted with our provincial dialects, those are not names locally assigned to any particular species of birds, as some others (*shrillcock*, *stormcock*, &c.) are well known to be. We must therefore look elsewhere for the origin of the termination.

Considerable discussion on this subject took place in the pages of the Gentleman's Magazine some years since, the substance of which is given below. A correspondent, J. A. C. K., in an article published in that periodical in the number for May 1837, speaking of the great number of surnames of which *cock* is a component syllable, observes, that "many of them are evidently borrowed from the animal creation, as *PEACOCK*, employed to designate a vain, showy fellow; *WOODCOCK*, applied to a silly coxcomb; and *SHILCOCK*, that is *shrillcock*, a Derbyshire provincialism for the thristle. *Bocock* or *Bawcock*, is, of course, nothing more nor

* It may be remarked that names with this or a similar termination are still very numerous in Holland. There is a great similarity between the family nomenclature of that country and our own, especially in those names which have Christian names as their basis. Thus Symonds is Simmonds; Huygens, Higgins; Pieters, Peters, &c. The termination *-son* is found in most of the languages of Gothic origin.

less than the French Beaucoq, fine fellow." ALCOCK, BADCOCK, DRAWCOCK, GROCOCK, SLOCOCK, this sapient scribbler casts aside as "indelicate;" "LUCCOCK or LUCKCOCK," he continues, "probably denotes some *lucky individual* (!) With respect to HITCHCOCK, it appears to have been synonymous with woodcock, and employed to signify a silly fellow GLASSCOCK, ADCOCK, MULCOCK, bid defiance to all etymology, unless the termination be a corruption of *cot*. Thus Glasscock becomes Glas-cote, Adcock, At-cote, &c. It seems highly probable that ATCOCK and ALCOCK, HICCOCK and WILCOCK, are but varieties of Atcot and Alket, Hickot and Wilkot, the familiar terms At and Hal, Hick and Will, for Arthur, Henry, Isaac, and William. As far as relates to the latter name, Wilcock, I am decidedly of opinion that such has been its original form, corroborated as it is by the surnames of *Wilcockes* and *Wilcoxon*, still existing amongst us."

This communication led to a second, (Gent. Mag. Sept. 1837,) in which the writer observes, that only six out of the ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY names containing this mysterious syllable can be assigned to the animal creation; while he is inclined to think many of the names *local*, being derived from *cock*, a hillock: *Cockburn*, the burn by the hillock; *Cockham*, the hamlet by the hillock: so also *Cockfield*, *Cocksedge*, *Cockwood*, &c. The reader will remark that in this article the examples are chosen from such names as have cock for their initial, and not for their final, syllable, and therefore do not aid our inquiry; although the derivation of *Cockburn*, &c. is probably correct.

J. G. N. in a third article on the same topic, (Gent. Mag. May, 1838,) remarks that the word "often occurs in the records of this country under the various forms

of Coc, Koc, le Cok, le Coq, &c., answering in fact, to the Latin *Coquus*, more usually, during the middle ages, written Cocus, and while the greater number of those antient professors of the culinary art have modified their orthography to Coke, or Cooke, or Cook, others have evidently retained the final c, and thus assimilated their names to the victims instead of the lords of the kitchen. Hence we proceed to Cock, Cocks, and Cox." He then quotes the Great Rolls of the Exchequer for 25 Hen. III, 1241, in which one Adam Coc or Cok is commissioned by the king to superintend certain repairs at Clarendon palace, "and to instruct the workmen, so that the *kitchen* and stables might be enclosed within the outer wall." Having hit upon this clue, he thinks it leads to an "explanation of some of the names ending in cock, as *Meacock*, the MEAT-cook (!) *Salcock*, the SALT-MEAT-cook (!!) *Slocock*, the SLOW-cook (!!!) and *Badcock*, the IMPERFECT-cook (!!!!) *Grococke* is the GROSS or *wholesale* cook . . . or, perhaps, *le gros coc*, or *fat cook* (!) and those compounded with Christian names are thus readily accounted for. *Wilcox* will be William the Cook; *HANCOCK*, Johan the Cook; *SANDERCOCK*, Alexander the Cook; *JEFFCOCK*, Jeffry the Cook, &c.* The *ALLCOCKS* may be descended from Hal the Cook, unless their great ancestor was *Aule cocus*, the Hall-Cook." Some others, he thinks, have originated from names of *places*, as *LAYCOCK* from *Lacock*, in Wiltshire, &c. &c.; others from the *bird*, from their being persons of noisy or pugnacious dispositions, or perhaps from their practice of *early rising* (!) *COCKERELL* (he justly says) is

* If Christian names were ever so compounded with vocations, how is it that we have no such names as *Han-SMITH* as well as *Hancock*; *Will-MILLER* as well as *Wilcock*; *Sander-TAILOR* as well as *Sandercock*?

derived "from cockerel, a young or dwarf bird of that species."

"*Ariel*. Which of he, or Adrian, for a good wager, first begins to crow?

Seb. The old cock.

Ant. The cockrel.

Seb. Done: the wager?"

Tempest, Act ii, Scene i.

That *Peacock*, *Woodcock*, and a few others, are derived from birds, is unquestionable, seeing that we have the congenerous names Raven, Finch, Sparrow, &c. from that source; and that others are corruptions of *cot*, cannot, I think, be denied; but that cock, as a termination, has aught to do with cocus, coq, or cook, is a supposition perfectly ridiculous. As to J. G. N.'s record in the Exchequer Rolls, it is a most amusing piece of nonsense to imagine that the said Adam Coc was the royal *cook*. Who indeed ever heard of a cook's possessing any architectural skill beyond what is required in the construction of the walls of a gooseberry tart or a venison pasty? Besides, what had a cook to do with walling in the royal stables? We have just as much right to assume that he was the king's farrier. But even admitting this same Adam's surname to have been originally derived from that necessary office of the kitchen, does it at all explain Meacock, Salcock, &c.? I do not consider the question deserving of a serious reply.*

What then *is* the meaning of cock? Why, it is simply a diminutive, the same as OT or KIN. This opinion I had formed long before I saw the correspondence just noticed, and it is supported by numerous

* Let me not be understood as entertaining the slightest disrespect for J. G. N., who occupies a deservedly exalted station in English archæological literature. Homer himself sometimes sleeps.

proofs. I do not profess to assign a satisfactory meaning to all the names with this termination; yet I think I have been successful in affixing that of five sixths of all such names as I have ever met with. And I doubt not that the remainder might be explained with equal facility were not the Christian names of which they are the diminutives extinct. Badcock and Salcock in J. G. N.'s list are evidently "Little Bat," that is, Bartholomew; and "Little Saul," which, however unenviable a name, was sometimes used by our ancestors. In like manner we may account for *Wilcocke* or *Wilcox*, "Little William," *Allcock*, "little Hal or Harry," *Luckock*, "little Luke," and the rest.* My old friend, N. Bailey, Φιλολογος, whom I have found very useful in these matters, has not the word *cock* in this sense, but he has the low Latin terms *Coca*, a *little* boat, and *Cocula*, a *small* drinking cup, which I think help me a "little." The term, in its simple form, was probably never used except in a familiar colloquial manner, and in this way the lower orders in the south of England are still accustomed to address "little" boys with "Well, my *little Cock*," a piece of tautology of which they are not at all aware.

In Lincolnshire a *little* fussy person is called a *Cockmarall*, and in other districts any diminutive person is designated *Cock-o-my-Thumb*. The true meaning of the much debated expression *Cockney* seems to be a spoilt or effeminate *boy*. "Puer in deliciis matris nutritus—Anglice a **kokenay**."†

* A correspondent reminds me that "ock is still a common diminutive in Scotland, as Willock, Lassock, Nannock." This suggestion enables us to account for *Pollock*, *Mattock*, and *Baldock*, which are evident modifications of Paul, Matthew, and Baldwin.

† MS. in Bibl. Reg. quoted by Halliwell.

In Scotland, a *cock-laird* is a landowner who cultivates the whole of his estate; a *little* or minor laird. Nor must we forget the use of this mysterious syllable in the antient nursery-rhyme of—

Ride a *cock*-horse

To Banbury Cross, &c.

where *little* horse is evidently intended. I was long puzzled with the surname *Coxe*, which I have now no hesitation in calling a synonyme of *Little*. Mr. COXHEAD is probably Mr. LITTLE-HEAD, (in contradistinction, I presume, to Mr. GREATHEAD. What a pity it is the syllables of that gentleman's name were not transposed, for he might then stand a fair chance of obtaining the preferment of HEAD-COOK in J. G. N.'s kitchen!*

* I thought I had settled the true etymology of this termination—cock; but from the correspondence of several literary friends I find that it still remains a moot point. It would be no difficult matter to gossip over an additional half-dozen of pages in a similar style to the preceding; but as the tendency of such discussions is rather to darken than to elucidate the subject in hand, I deem it most prudent to leave the matter to the decision of the reader. I cannot however resist the temptation to quote a few observations with which I have been favoured by the secretary of the Gaëlic Society of London. "*Coch*, the Welsh for red," says that gentleman, "makes in English, *Cox* and *Cocks*." . . . "They"—namely, the surnames in Cock—"are merely Gaëlic, Cornish, and Welsh terms (!!), expressive of personal qualities slightly modified into English, as—

"**Gaëlic.**

Algoch, great, *Alcock*,
 Stangoch, pettish, *Stancock*,
 Magoch, clumsy or large-fisted,
 Macock and *Meacock*,
 Bacoeh, lame, *Bacock*,
 Leacoeh, high-cheeked, *Laycock*,
 Lucoch, bow-legged, *Lucock*,
 Peacoeh, gay, handsome, *Peacock*.

"**Welsh.**

Bochog, blob-cheeked, *Pocock*,
 Bachog, crooked, *Bacock*, &c. &c."

But lest I should be accused of making "much ado about nothing," I proceed to set down my list of son-names, nurse-names, and diminutives, which I hope will furnish some amusement to the reader :—

From ADAM are derived ADAMS, Adamson, Ade,* Adye, Adey, Addis, Addy, Addison, *Adcock*, Addiscot, *Addiscock*, Adkins, and Addecott.

ABRAHAM, Abrahams, Abramson, Mabb, Mabbs, and Mabbot.

ARTHUR, Atts, Atty, Atkins, Atkinson, and *Atcock*; perhaps also Aitkin and Aikin.

ANDREW, Andrews, Anderson, Henderson.

ALDRED, Alderson.

ALEXANDER, Sanders, Sanderson, *Sandercock*, Allix, Alken, Alley.

AINULPH, Haynes, Hainson.

ALLAN, Allanson, Hallet, Elkins, Elkinson.

ANTHONY, Tony, Tonson, Tonkin.

BENJAMIN, Benn, Benson, *Bancock*, and *Benhacock*.

BALDWIN, Ball, *Bawcock*, Baldey, Baldock, Balderson, Bawson.

BARTHOLOMEW, Batts, Bates, Batson, Bartlett, *Batcock*, *Badcock*, Batty, Batkin.

BERNARD, Bernards, Bernardson, Barnard, Barnett,† Berners.

CHRISTOPHER, Christopherson, Kister, Kitts, Kitson.

CUTHBERT, Cuthbertson, Cutts.

* Adam is usually abbreviated to *Ade* in the Nonarum Rolls, and other antient records.

† Often so corrupted.

CLAPPA, an obs. Saxon name, Clapp, Clapps, Clapson.*

CRISPIN, Crispe, Cripps.

CLEMENT, Clements, Climpson.

CHARLES, Kell, Kelson, Kelley.

DIGORY, Digg, Digges, Diggins, Digginson, Tegg?

DROGO, Drew, Dray, Drayson, *Drocock*.

DODA, an obsolete Saxon name, Dodd, Dodson.

DONALD, Donaldson, Donkin.

DENNIS, Denison, Tennison.

DANIEL, Dann,† Daniels, *Tancock*.

DUNSTAN, Dunn (if not from the colour).

DAVID, Davey, Daffy, Davison, Davis, Dawes,‡ Dawkins, Dawkinson, Dawson, Davidge, (i. e. David's,) &c.

EDWARD, Edwards, Ethards, Edes, Edkins, Edwardson, Tedd.

ELIAS, Ellis, Ellison, Elliot, Elliotson, Elson, Elley, Ellet, Lelliot.

EDMUND, Edmunds, Edmundson, Munn, Monson.

EUSTACE, Stace, Stacekyn.

FRANCIS, Frank, Frankes.

* Clapham, in Surrey, is the *ham* or house of 'Clappa,' a Saxon, who held the manor *temp. Confessoris*.

† Unless it be from *Dan*, an antient title of respect from the Lat. Dominus.

‡ A correspondent protests against the derivation of Dawes from David, and quotes the 'Glossaire' of Roquefort: "Awe; eau, riviere, fontaine, etang, AQUA;" adding that the name was spelt with an apostrophe, D'Awes, so lately as 1724, by Sir William D'Awes, archbishop of Canterbury. I still think, however, that in many instances Dawes is a simple 'nurse-name:' without it I do not see how we can get our Dawson, Dawkins, Dawkinson, &c., any more than we can get Hawkins and Hawkinson from Henry without the intermediate Hawes.

From FERGUS, Ferguson.

GIDEON, Gyde, Giddy, Giddings, Giddies, Geddes.

GILBERT, Gill, Gillot, Gilpin, Gibb, Gibbs,
Gibbon, Gibbons, Gibson, Gubbins, Gibbings,
Gipp, Gipps.

GILES, Gillies, Gilkes,* Gilkin, Gilkinson.

GREGORY, Gregg, Gregson, *Grocock*, Gregorson,
Griggs.

GODARD or Godfrey, Godkin, Goddin, Goad.

GEOFFRY, Jefferson, Jeffson, Jepson, *Jeffcock*,
Jeffries, Jifkins.

HENRY, Henrison, Harry, Harris, Herries,
Harrison, Hal, Halket, Hawes, Halse, Hawkins,
Hawkinson, Halkins, Allkins, Haskins, *Alcock*,
Hall (sometimes).

HUGH, Hewson, Hugget, Huggins, Hugginson,
Hewet.

JOSEPH, Joskyn, Juggins.

JOHN, Johnes, Jones, Johnson, *Johncock*, Janson,
Jennings, Jenks, Jenkins, Jenkinson, Jack,
Jackson, Juxon, Hanson, *Hancock*, Hanks,
Hankinson, Jockins.

JUDE, Judd, Judkin, Judson.

JOB, Jubb, Jobson.

JACOB, Jacobs, Jacobson, Jeakes.

JAMES, Jamieson.

JEREMY, Jerrison, Gerison, Jerkin.

ISAAC, Isaacs, Isaacson, Hyke, Hicks, Hixon,
Higson, Hickot, *Hiscock* (q. d. Isaac-ock),
Hickox.

LAWRENCE, Larry, Larkins, Lawes, Lawson,
Lawrie.

* When the initial G is soft, those names above assigned to Gilbert probably belong to Giles.

From LUKE, Luckins, *Luckock*, *Lucock*, *Locock*, Lukin, Luckin, Luckings, Luckett.

MATTHEW, Mathews, Matheson, Matson, Madison, Mathey, Matty, Maddy.

MAURICE, Morrison, Mockett, Moxon.

MARK, *Markcock*, Marks.

NICHOLAS, Nichol, Nicholls, Nicholson, Nickson, Nixon, Cole, Colet, Colson, Collins,* Collison, *Glascock*, Glasson.

NEAL or NIGELL, Neale, Neilson, Nelkins.

NATHANIEL, Natkins.

OLIVER, Olliver, Oliverson, Olley, Nolls, Nolley, Nollekins.

PETER, Peterson, Pierce, Pierson, Perkin, Perkins, Purkiss, Perk, Parkins, Parkinson, Peters, Parr, Porson, Parson (sometimes).

PHILIP, Phillips, Philps, Phelp, Phipson, Phipp, Phipps, Phippen, Philpot, Phillot, *Philcox*,† Philippo, Phillopson, Philipson.

PAUL, Paulett, Pallett, Pawson, Porson, *Pocock*, *Palcock*, Palk, Pollock, Polk.‡

PATRICK, Patrickson, Paterson, Patson, Pattison.

* 'Colline,' Fr., a hill, may be the origin of this name.

† " *Pillycock*, *Pillycock*, sate on a hill,
If he's not gone, he sits there still."

From the 'Nursery Rhymes of England,' by Mr. Halliwell, who observes that this word also occurs in (MS. Harl. 913) a manuscript of the fourteenth century. It is probably an older form of *Philcox*.

‡ Mr. Polk, late President of the United States, is the third in descent from a Mr. Pollock. POWELL, generally regarded as a contraction of the Welsh Ap-Howell, may with equal probability be deduced from Paul. Indeed *Powel* is a common orthography of the latter name :

"After the text of Crist, and *Powel* and Ion."

Wright's Chaucer, 7229.

From RALPH, Rawes, Rawson, Rawlins, Rawlinson, Rason, Roaf.*

RANDOLPH, Randalls, Rankin, *Ranecock*.

RHYS (Welsh), Ap Rhys, Price, Apreece, Preece, Brice.

RICHARD, Richards, Richardson, Ritchie, Rickards, Hitchins, Hitchinson, *Hitchcock*, Dick, Dickson, Dixon, Dickens, Dickinson, Dickerson.

ROBERT, Robins, Robinson, Roberts, Robertson, Robison, Robson, Roby, Dobbs, Dobbie, Dobson, Dobbin, Dobinson, Hoby, Hobbs, Hobson, Hobkins, Hopkins.

ROGER, Rogers, Rogerson, Hodges, Hodgson, Hodgkin, Hodgkinson, Hoskin (?), Hodd, Hodson (if not from Odo), Hudson.

REYNOLD, Renolds, Reynoldson, *Raincock*.

SAMUEL, Samson, Samkin.

SWEYNE, Swaine, Swainson, Swinson.

SIMON, Simmonds, Simpson, Simmes, Symes, *Simcock*, Simpkin, Simpkinson.

STEPHEN, Stephens, Stephenson, *Stercock* (?), Steen, Steenson, Stimson, Stinson, Stiff (?), Stebbing, Stubbs, Tiffany.

SILAS or SILVESTER, *Silcock*.

TIMOTHY, Tim, Timms, Timmings, Timpson, Timpkins.

THOMAS, Thom, Tom, Thoms, Thompson, Thomlin, Thomlinson, Tompkins, Tampkins (a northern pronunciation), Thompkisson, Thompsett, Tampsett (northern).

TOBIT, Toby, Towes, Towson, Tobin, 'Tubbe, Tubbes.

TURCHETIL, Turke.

* See Paston Letters.

From THEOBALD, Tibbald, Tipple (a murderous corruption),* Tipkins, Tibbs, Tippet! Tibbats.

WALTER, Walters, Watt, Watts, Watson, Watkins, Watkinson, *Watcock*.

WILLIAM, Williams, Williamson, Wills, Wilks, Wilkins, Wilkinson, Wickens, Wickeson, Bill, Bilson, Wilson, *Woolcock*, Woolcot, *Wilcocke* and *Wilcox*, *Wilcockson*, *Wilcoxon*, Willet, Willmot, Willy, Willis, Wylie, Willott, Till, Tillot, Tilson, Tillotson, Tilly, Guillian.†

APPARENTLY DERIVED FROM FEMALE NAMES:

From AGATHA, Agg.

ALICE, Alce and Alison.

AGNES, Annis.

BARBARA, Babb.

KATHERINE, Kates.

MARGARET, Marjory, Margerison, Margetts, Margetson, Margison, Maggs, Magson.

MARY, Moll, Malkin, Makins, Makinson, Molson, *Maycock* (?).

NIB and IB are French nurse-names for Isabel, whence Nibbs, Niblett, Ibson, Ibbotson.

Such names as these are supposed to denote the illegitimacy of the original bearers. Natural children among the Romans took their mothers' names, and our own laws sanction the same practice. In the

* At Heathfield, in Sussex, is a place called Tipple's Green: in old writings it is called Theobald's.

† The baptismal name is so spelt by Leland. "By the wich church e enhanced of old tyme a gentelman, Johannes de St. Winnoco. After, the lordes Hastings wer owners of it, and they sold to *Guilliam* Lowre's gret grandfather now lyving."—*Itin. Cornwall*.

Swiss canton of Appenzel a law prevails compelling illegitimates to bear the name and *bourgeoisie* of their mother, and they accordingly use such designations as "Pagan, fils de Marie," or, more simply, "Pièrre, fils de sa mère,"—a name implying, according to Ducange, that the father's name was unknown.

On the other hand, and for the benefit of such as bear these names, but who object to this insinuation of the *bend sinister* into their pedigree, I would observe that the rule above alluded to does not always hold good. The Romans often gave their sons and daughters names representing those of their mothers: "In many Roman inscriptions," as Salverte remarks, "it is seen that a son with equal respect and tenderness towards both the authors of his being, employed after his own name the maternal designation as well as the paternal."* In the town of Montdoubleau in France (dép. de Loire-et-Cher) immemorial usage has given to a younger, or to the youngest, child, the surname of the mother; and other instances might easily be adduced. The analogous practice of bearing the armorial ensigns of the mother when she was an heiress or belonged to a higher rank than the father, is familiar to the student of our medieval heraldry.

We have already seen that the Romans frequently formed one name from another by elongation, as Constans, Constantius, Constantinus, a series of names exactly parallel to our Wilks, Wilkins, Wilkinson;

* Since the *tria nomina* are becoming nearly as indispensable among us as they were in old Rome, I would suggest to parents the desirableness of making the mother's maiden surname the *second* appellative, as 'John Russell Smith.' Were such a practice general, how much assistance would be rendered to future genealogists! And as I wish to promote by humble example what I recommend in words, I have given all my own children the maternal surname in this manner.

and a still farther analogy is observable in the names which end in *por*, which is said to be a contraction of *puer*: hence *Publipor*, *Marcipor*, *Lucipor*, and our own *Johnson*, *Wilson*, and *Richardson*, originated in the same principle.

There is no reason to suppose that the abbreviated or nurse-names implied any disrespect to the persons to whom they were given, or that the *Dicks* and *Dicksons* were less respectable than the *Richards* or *Richardsons* of olden times. The Lincolnshire innkeeper mentioned by Camden laboured, therefore, under a mistake;—but let Mr. Clarendieux tell his own story :

“Daintie was the device of my host of Grantham, which would wisely make a difference of degrees in persons, by the termination of names in this word *Son*, as between *Robertson*, *Robinson*, *Robson*, *Hobson*; *Richardson*, *Dickson*, and *Dickinson*; *Wilson*, *Williamson*, and *Wilkinson*; *Jackson*, *Johnson*, *Jenkinson*, as though the one were more worshipfull than the other by his degrees of comparison.”

Some christian names have been oddly compounded with other words to form surnames, as *Goodhugh*, *Matthewman*, *Marklove*, *Fulljames* (perhaps *Foljambe*), *Harryman*, *Cobbledick*, (on J. G. N.’s theory ‘Dick the Cobbler!’) *Jackaman*, and *Dulhumphrey*!

The name of *John* has at least seven of these strange appendages, viz.: *Littlejohn*, *Micklejohn*, *Upjohn*, *Prettejohn*, *Applejohn*, *Properjohn*, and *Brownjohn*!!! I cannot consider these last corruptions of other names, as the prefixes seem to be all *significant* and *descriptive*. Indeed so common is the forename *John*, that before the invention of regular surnames, these sobriquets might have been given with

great propriety, for the sake of distinction, to as many inhabitants of any little village. Thus the *least* John of the seven would be the Little John of the locality; while Mickle (that is great) John would be a very appropriate designation for the most bulky of the number; John at the *upper* end of the street might be called Up-John; Pretty John was, I suppose, the *beau* of the village; while the goodman who had the best *orchard* was styled Apple-John;* Proper-John, no doubt, answered to his name, and was a model of *propriety* to all the youth of the parish;† while, to complete the list, Brown-John possessed a complexion which would not have disgraced a mulatto. All this may be rejected by profound etymologists and grave and solemn antiquaries as inconsiderate trifling, though to the good-natured ‘gentle reader’ it may appear quite as satisfactory as some of their more recondite speculations.

The foregoing paragraph had been twice in print before the etymology of a very curious name, which I had often seen, occurred to me, as being similar—I mean *Grosjean*, which literally signifies ‘Big or Fat John,’ and is still applied in France by way of sobriquet to any self-important person. The occurrence of this name in another language seems a strong proof of my hypothesis. It is by no means uncommon in England.

* I may remark, in support of this etymology, that I once knew a person who was famous for growing an excellent kind of potatoes, on which account he was often spoken of by his rustic neighbours as *Tater-John*! *Applejohn*, in Shakspeare’s time, was the name of a species of apple. “Do I not bate? Do I not dwindle?” says Falstaff; “why my skin hangs about me like an old lady’s loose gown; I am withered like an old *Apple-John*.”—*Hen. IV*, act iii.

† Sometimes ‘proper’ signified handsome; as “Moses was a *proper* child.”—*Heb. xi*, 23. “A *proper* youth and tall.”—*Old Ballad*.



CHAPTER X.

OF SURNAMES DERIVED FROM NATURAL OBJECTS.



ONE would suppose that when almost every description of locality, whether town, village, manor, park, hill, dale, bridge, river, pond, wood or green; every dignity, office, profession and trade; every peculiarity of body and of mind, and every imaginable modification of every christian name, had contributed their full quota to the nomenclature of Englishmen, the few millions of families inhabiting our island would have all been supplied with surnames; but no: the thirst for variety (that charming word!) was not yet satisfied; and consequently recourse was had to

“objects celestial and things terrene,
The wondrous glories of the firmament,
And all the creatures of this nether scene,
Beasts, fishes, birds, and trees, in beauteous green
Yclad, and even stones——.”

Accordingly we find the names of the heavenly bodies, beasts, birds, fishes, insects, plants, fruits, flowers, metals, &c. &c. very frequently borne as surnames. I shall first attempt a classification of these names under their various *genera*, and then offer some remarks on their probable origin.

I. From the HEAVENLY BODIES. *Sun, Moon, Star.*

II. From QUADRUPEDS ;

Ass, Bear, Buck, Badger, Bull, Bullock, Boar, Beaver, Catt, Colt, Coney, Cattle (!), Cow, Calfe, Deer, Doe, Fox, Fawn, Goat, Goodsheep, Hart, Hogg, Hare, Hound, Heifer, Kine (!), Kitten, Kydd, Lyon, Leppard, Lambe,† Leveret, Mare, Mule, Mole, Oxen (!), Otter, Oldbuck, Panther, Puss, Poodle (!), Palfrey, Pigg, Roebuck, Ram, Rabbit, Roe, Setter, Steed, Stallion, Steere, Squirrel, Seal, Stagg, Tiger, Wildbore and Wetherhogg.*

Some names of animals now obsolete, or only used in our provincial dialects, are retained in surnames, as—

Brock, a badger, in various dialects. In others it means an inferior horse, and “hence,” says Kennett, “the name of ‘brockman’ in Kent, i. e. horseman.” The surname *Brockman* is still in use, but I think analogy (see p. 119,) is in favour of the ‘brockman’ of old having been a hunter of badgers. The Wicliffite version of the N. Test. renders Hebr. xi, 37, “Thei wenten about in *brok* skynnes, and in skynnes of geet.” ‡

* This is mentioned as a surname by one or two authorities: I must confess I have never met with it.

† Charles Lamb, in reply to the question, “Who first imposed thee, gentle name?” comes to the conclusion that his ancestors were shepherds!

‡ See more in Halliwell’s Dict. and Way’s Parv. Prompt. in voc. *Brock*. Both this word and ‘stot’ are employed by Chaucer to designate beasts of draught.

“Thay seigh a cart, that chargid was with hay,
Which that a carter drof forth in his way.
Deep was the way, for which the cart stood;
The carter smoot, and cryde as he wer wood;
‘Hayt, brok; hayt, stot; what spare ye for the stones?
The fend,’ quoth he, ‘now fech body and bones!’”

Wright’s Chauc. 7121, &c.

Todd, a fox (see p. 119).

Talbot, a mastiff; a familiar heraldic term.

Gray, another provincialism for the badger.

(*Clutterbuck*, which I have heretofore assigned to this class, is supposed by Mr. Talbot* to be a local name from the A.-S. and German 'cluttr,' 'kluttr,' clear, pure, transparent, and 'beck,' a little stream.)

Fitchett, a stoat or polecat.

Stott, a young ox.

Veal (in Anglo-Norman records, *Le Veal*), a calf.

Moyle is the O. E. for any labouring beast, and *Capel* is an old word, signifying a strong horse; hence Chaucer,

"And gave him *caples* to his *carte*."

In an antient "ballade of Robyn Hood" we have,

"Yonder I heare Syr Guy's horne blow,
It blows so wel in tyde;
And yonder he comes, that wight yeoman,
Clad in hys *CAPUL-HIDE*."

I have not found the name of *Mouse* in modern times, but "le Mouse" occurs in the Nonarum Rolls.

One of the most singular designations I ever met with is that of a gentleman of fortune in Kent. His family name was *Bear*, and as he had maternal relatives of the name of *Savage*, his parents gave him the christian (or rather un-christian) name of *Savage*! Hence he enjoyed the pleasing and amiable name of *Savage Bear, Esquire*!!

Not content with having appropriated the names of the living animals, our ancestors sometimes, oddly enough, adopted the terms applied to their flesh, &c. when dead, as *Mutton, Tripe, Pigfat, Gammon*,

* English Etymol.

Brawn, Giblets, Hogsflesh,* and *Bacon*. These two last were once borne by two innkeepers at Worthing, then a very small town; whereupon a rustic poetaster penned the ensuing most elegant stanza:

“Worthing is a pretty place,
And if I’m not mistaken,
If you can’t get any butcher’s meat,
There’s *Hogsflesh* and *Bacon*!”

III. Surnames derived from BIRDS are fully as numerous as those from quadrupeds:

Bird, Blackbird, Bunting, Bulfinch, Buzzard, Barnacle, Bustard, Coote, Crane, Cock, Cuckoo, Crake, Chick, Chicken, Chaffinch, Crowe, Capon, Drake, Duck, Dove, Daw, Egles, Fowle, Finch, Falcon, Goshawk, Grouse, Gander, Goose, Gosling, Gull, Goldfinch, Hawke, Howlett, Heron, Herne, Jay, Kite, Linnet, Larke, Mallard, Nightingale, Peacock, Partridge, Pheasant, Pigeon, Parrot, Raven, Rooke, Ruff, Swan, Sparrow, Swallow, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stork, Swift, Turtle, Teale, Thrush, Throssel, Wildrake, Wildgoose, Woodcock,† *Woodpecker, Wren*!

Obsolete or Provincial Names of Birds used as surnames:—

Culver (A.-S.), a pigeon, whence the local names *Culverhouse* (dove-cot), *Culverwell*, &c.

Bisset (Fr.), a wild pigeon.

Henshaw (O. E. ‘hernshaw;’ in blazon, ‘heronsewe’),

* The mistress of a ladies’ seminary in a fashionable watering-place, who used to advertise her establishment under this name, now spells it *Ho’flesh*!

† *Woodcock* was an unfortunate name. It was often given by way of sobriquet to vain and silly people, from the vulgar notion that the bird designated by it was *brainless*!

a young heron. One family of this name bear the allusive coat of three herons.*

Popjay (O. E. 'popinjay'), a parrot. Shooting at the popinjay was a favourite amusement among our antient toxophilites.

Carnell, a bird, but of what species I am not quite certain. Hone mentions a Christmas carol commencing,

"As I passed by a river side,
And as I there did rein (ramble),
In argument I chanced to hear
A carnal and a crane."

"A *cardnell* volant" occurs in Bossewell's 'Workes of Armorie,' 1572. "**Thys lyttle byrde is here figured, gesante a seade of the thistle, for that she lybeth by the seades of them, unde illi inditum nomen. She hath a redde heade, yealoww winges, distincte with white and blacke.**" In the margin is placed the word *Carduelis* (a linnet), but the description evidently refers to the goldfinch. It is not so likely that *cardnell* or *carnell* is derived from 'carduus,' a thistle, as the old herald-ris imagines, as that it comes from *cardinal*, in allusion to the hood of red with which nature has invested this sprightly and beautiful little bird.

* "HE DON'T KNOW A HAWK FROM A HANDSAW" is a proverb often applied to an ignoramus. For *handsaw* read *hernshaw*. The saying originally and primarily referred to ignorance of a favourite sport—that of falconry—when the said ignoramus could not discriminate between the hawk and *its prey*. I cannot help just remarking here that several of our most vulgar proverbs had a worthier origin than would appear at first sight. For example, "*To be called over the coals*," in the sense of being questioned upon some alleged fault—apparently a meaningless expression—loses all its coarseness when we associate with it *the ordeal by fire*, so much in use among our medieval ancestors.

Spink is a provincialism for chaffinch, probably borrowed from the peculiar note of the bird.

Goldspink, a goldfinch.

Guilliam, a provincial name for the sea-gull; it is also an O. E. orthography for William. (See p. 171.)

Pocock is peacock. Chaucer's 'Yeman' was

"clad in coote and hood of grene
A shef of *pocok* arwes bright and kene,
Under his belte he bar full thriftily."

Hannah (A.-S. 'hana'), a cock.

Goss (A.-S. 'gos'), a goose.

Laverock, a lark.

Balchin in the midland and western counties means an unfledged bird.

Pye, which might be supposed to be derived from the bird so called, is a corruption from the Welsh Ap-Hugh—*u* in that language having sometimes the sound of *y*. This name is exceedingly common in some districts of England and Wales, a fact that can excite no surprise in any one who "marks the *conclusion*" of the following epitaph from Dewchurch near Kevenol:

"1550.
Here lyeth the
Body of John Pye
of Minde,
a travayler in far countryes,
his life ended; he left be-
hind him Walter, his son,
heire of Minde; a hundred and
six yeaes he was truly, *and had*
sons and daughters two and forty!"

Corbet, the name of more than one eminent family in the North of England, is *raven*. In Scotland, the

name, both of the bird and the family, is varied to *Corby*. The reader who is versed in the old Scottish ballads will call to mind that of the *Twa Corbies*, which for tragic effect and wildness of diction is unequalled, and which, for the benefit of those to whom it may be new, I shall here take the liberty to introduce.

“The Twa Corbies.

As I gaed down by yon house-een’,
Twa *Corbies* there were sitting their lane;
The ane unto the tother did say:—
‘O where shall we gae dine to-day?’

O doun beside yon new-faun birk,
There, there lies a new-slain knight;
Nae livin’ kens that he lies there,
But his horse, his hounds, and his ladye fair.

His horse is to the hunting gane,
His hounds to bring the wild deer hame;
His lady’s taen another mate;
Sae we may mak our dinner sweet!

O we’ll sit on his bonny breist-bane,
And we’ll pyke out his bonny grey een;
Wi’ ae lock o’ his gowden hair
We’ll theek our nest when it blows bare!

Many a ane for him maks mane,
But none sall ken where he is gane;
Ower his banes when they are bare,
The wind sall blaw for evermair!”

So numerous are the names derived from this source that in a small congregation of dissenters at Feversham, co. Kent, there were lately no less than *twenty-three* names taken from the “feathered nation,” their pastor, a very worthy man, bearing the singularly appropriate name of *Rooke*!

"Who'll be the Parsoune?"

"I," quoth ye Rooke,

"Wyth my littel booke,

And I'll be ye Parsonne."

Nurserie Romaunt of Cocke Robyn!

Many names of this sort have been the subjects of excellent puns, among which may be noticed the following. "When worthy master HERN, famous for his living, preaching and writing, lay on his death-bed, (rich only in goodness and children,) his wife made womanish lamentations what would become of her little ones? 'Peace, sweetheart,' said he, 'that God who feedeth the ravens will not starve the *herns*;'—a speech (says Fuller) censured as light by some, observed by others as prophetic; as indeed it came to pass they were all well disposed of." Akin to this were the words of John Huss at his burning; who, fixing his eyes steadfastly upon the spectators, said with a solemn voice—"They burn a *goose*, but in a hundred years a *swan* will arise out of the ashes:" words which many have regarded as a prediction of the reformer of Eisleben; the name of Huss signifying a GOOSE, and that of Luther a SWAN.

The following is of a more humorous cast. As Mr. Jay, the eminent nonconformist divine of Bath, and his friend Mr. Fuller were taking an evening walk, an owl crossed their path, on which Mr. Fuller said to his companion, "Pray, sir, is that bird a *jay*?" "No, sir," was the prompt reply; "it's not like a jay,—it's *fuller* in the eyes, and *fuller* in the head, and *fuller all over*!"*

* Since the above was written, a correspondent informs me that the same story is told "by that excellent old English classic, Miller, high Joseph, reading however Woodcock for Jay."

It is related in Collins's Peerage that a certain unmarried lady once dreamed of finding a nest containing seven young *finches*, which in course of time was realized by her becoming the wife of a *Mr. Finch*, and mother of *seven* children. From one of these nestlings is descended the present earl of Winchelsea, who still retains the surname of Finch.

IV. From FISHES.

Bream, Burt, Base, Cod, Crabbe, Cockle, Chubb, Dolphin, Eel, Flounders, Gudgeon, Grayling, Gurnard, Haddock, Herring, Jack, Ling, Lamprey, Mullett, Minnow, Pilchard, Plaice, Piper, Pike, Perch, Pikerell, Ray, Roach, Sharke, Sturgeon, Salmon, Sole, Scate, Smelt, Sprat, Seal, Trout, Tench, Whiting, Whale; to which may be added *Fish* and *Fisk*, the latter being the true A.-S. form of the same word.

V. From INSECTS and REPTILES.

Bugg, Bee, Beetle, Cricket, Emmett, Flea, Fly, Grubb, Moth, Spider, Wasp, Worms, and Blackadder.

Some of these again are probably corruptions, but the first, at least, is of antient use as a second name, for Mr. Kemble mentions an Anglo-Saxon lady named Hrôthwaru, who bore the sobriquet of 'Bucge' (cimex, bug,) "perhaps (as Mr. K. jocularly observes) upon the principle of that insect being 'a familiar beast and a friend to man.'"

VI. From VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS (omitting the names of trees, already mentioned.)

Ashplant, Almond, Bays, Barberry, Balsam, Bramble, Brier, Beet, Budd, Bean, Broome, Codlin, Clover, Cranberry, Cabbage, Clove, Cherry, Cockle, Darnell, Damson, Daisy, Ferne, Fennel, Flower, Flowers, Flax, Furze,

Grain, Garlick, Gourd, Grapes, Holyoak, Hip, Herbage, Hempe, Ivy, Ivyleaf, Lily, Laurel, Leaf, Leeves, Leek, Millet, Medlar, Melon, Nutt, Nuts, Nettle, Oates, Onion, Orange, Olive, Pepper, Peppercorn,† Peascod, Pease* (lately among the *M. P.'s*), *Primrose, Peach, Pippin, Plum, Plant, Poppy, Parsley, Quince, Quickset, Raisin, Rue, Row(a)ntree, Rose, Seed, Stock, Straw, Sorrell, Sage, Spinage, Spice, Savory, Sweetapple, Tares, Tulip, Thistle, Violets, Vetch, Weed and Woodbine.*

* Holly and Ivy were *personated* in the antient holiday games. In Hone's *Mysteries* is the following quotation from a MS. carol, called "A Song on the Holly and the Ivy." (p. 94.)

"Nay, IVY, nay, hyt shal not be I wys,
Let HOLY hafe the maystry ; as the maner ys :
HOLY stand in the halle, fayre to behold
IVY stond without the dore she is ful sore acold.

Nay, IVY, nay, &c.

HOLY and *hys mery men*, they dawnsyn and they syng,
IVY and *hur maydyns*, they wepyn and they wryng.

Nay, IVY, nay, &c."

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1779, a correspondent, under the name of Kitty Curious, describes an odd kind of sport which she witnessed in an obscure village in Kent on the festival of St. Valentine. The girls and young women were assembled in a crowd, burning an uncouth effigy which they called a *Holly Boy*, and which they had stolen from the boys; while the boys revenged themselves in another part of the village by burning a similar figure taken from the girls, and called an *Ivy Girl*. The sport was carried on with great noise and much glee. Kitty inquired the meaning of the observance from the most aged people of the place, but could only learn from them that it was a "very old antient custom." That surnames were occasionally assumed from such and similar mummeries, is confirmed by the following short extract from Fabyan's *Chronicle* (edit. 1559), sub anno 1502: "About Mydsomer was taken a felow wych had renued (renewed) many of Robyn Hodes pagentes, which named hymselfe *Greneleuf*." This name is not extinct.

† There were formerly living in two adjacent houses in Deptford Broadway, Mr. *Pluckrose*, a perfumer, and Mr. *Peppercorn*, a grocer.

Roser is an obsolete word for ROSE-BUSH or tree, (Fr. 'rosier,') as the following *true* tale from our unsophisticated friend Sir John Maundevile, will show :

"And betwene the cytee [of Bethlehem] and the chirche is the felde floridus ; that is to seyne, the feld florisched : for als moche as a fayre mayden was blamed with wrong and sclaundered, for whiche cause sche was demed to the dethe, and to be brent in that place, to the whiche sche was ladd (led). And as the fyre began to brenne aboute hire, sche made hire preyeres to our Lord, that als wissely as sche was not gylty of that synne, that he wold help hire, and make it to be knowen to alle men of his mercyfulle grace. And whan sche hadde thus seyde, sche entred in to the fuyr ; and anon was the fuyr quenched and oute ; and the brondes that weren brennyng becomen REDE ROSERES ; and the brondes that weren not kyndled, becomen WHITE ROSERES fulle of roses. And theise weren the first ROSERES and roses, both white and rede, that evere any man saugh."

There are several other surnames which at first sight appear to belong to this class, but which really belong to others. Of these some are local, as *Barley*, a parish in Hertfordshire, *Smallwood*, in Cheshire, &c. *Lemon* and *Peel* would look well enough in juxta-position among *vegetable surnames*, but the truth is that neither of them belongs to the category. Of *Peel* I have already spoken among local names, and *Leman* is a corrupt spelling of the O. E. 'lemman,' a paramour or mistress, a word of frequent occurrence in Chaucer. *Filbert* and *Pear*, again, are corruptions of the French proper names Philibert and Pierre.

Lis and *Blanchflower* (Fr.), 'lily' and 'white-flower,' might be added to the foregoing list.

VII. From MINERALS.

Alum,* *Amber*, *Brass*, *Corall*, *Chrystal*, *Coale*, *Copper*, *Diamond* and *Dymond*, *Freestone*, *Gold*, *Garnett*, *Gravel*, *Irons*, *Jewell*, *Pewter*, *Silver* and *Steele*.

Clay, *Chalk*, *Flint*, *Stone*, *Sands* and *Whetstone*, are local names, and therefore do not belong to this class.

Hone is an old spelling of 'hand.'

Coke has nothing to do with charred coal: it is the old orthography of *COOK*:—

"A COKE they hadden with hem for the nones
To boile the chickenes and the marie-bones,
He coud-e roste and sethe and boile and frie,
Maken mortrew-es and wel bake a pie."

Chaucer, Prologue.

Having thus classified the surnames which are identical with names of natural objects, it is our next duty to inquire in what manner they have got into our nomenclature. After much research I have arrived at the conviction that their assumption is traceable to at least four different causes.

I. Some were given to, or assumed by, the original bearers, as emblematical of their characters, as *Lyon*, *Fox*, *Lambe*.

II. Others were sobriquets in allusion to some incident in their personal history.

III. Some were borrowed from the blazonry of the warrior's shield.

IV. The majority were adopted from inn and traders' *Signs*.

In this chapter I shall discuss the two former

* Perhaps local. Alum Bay, Isle of Wight. *Allom* is a nursename of Absolom.

branches only. The third and fourth are connected with artificial objects, and to prevent confusion must be treated separately.

The Greeks and Romans frequently applied the names of animals to persons who were supposed to bear some resemblance to them in the main features of their character. Among the latter people such names as *Leo*, *Ursinicus*, *Catullus*, *Leporius*, *Aper*, *Gallus*, *Picus*, *Falco*, are sufficiently abundant. The Persian name *Cyrus* means a dog, and may possibly be related to our English word *cur*! And it is a singular and humorous coincidence that the *nurse* of Cyrus bore a name signifying bitch! Among less civilized races the same practice prevailed. The antient Germans, and the American Indians of the present day may be mentioned as instances. Verstegan says, "The pagan Germans, ESPECIALLY THE NOBLEMEN, did sometimes take the names of beasts, as one would be called a Lion, another a Bear, another a Wolf, &c."

One of the most widely-spread names of this kind is *Wolfe*, which occurs in the classical, as well as in many modern, languages, as *Λυκος* (Gr.), *LUPUS* and *LUPA* (Lat.), *LOUPE* (Fr.), *WOLF* (Sax.), and *GUELPH* (Germ.)—the surname of the existing royal family of Great Britain.* The old baronial name of *LOVEL* is from the

* *Siste Viator! and read the subjoined most veritable history! "It is told in the chronicles, that as far back as the days of Charlemagne, one Count Isenbrand, who resided near the Lake of Constance, met an old woman who had given birth to three children at once, a circumstance which appeared to him so portentous and unnatural, that he assailed her with a torrent of abuse. Stung to fury by his insults, she cursed the Count, and wished that his wife, then enceinte, might bring at a birth as many children as there are months in the year. The imprecation was fulfilled, and the Countess became the mother of a dozen babes at once. Dreading the vengeance of her severe lord, she bade her abigail go drown eleven of the twelve. But whom should the*

same source. The original name of that family was Perceval, from a place in Normandy ; until Asceline, its chief, who flourished in the early part of the twelfth century, acquired, from his violent temper, the sobriquet of LUPUS. His son William, earl of Yvery, was nicknamed LUPELLUS, the little wolf, which designation was softened into LUFEL, and thence to *Luvel*, and became the surname of most of his descendants.* Fosbroke mentions the name of Archembaldus Pejor-Lupo, Archibald *Worse-than-a-Wolf!* but does not give his authority.† A seal lately found at Colchester bears the figure of a wolf carrying off a ram, with the not very complimentary legend, s' ROBERTI DICTI LVPI, '*the seal of Robert called the Wolf.*'

The female name 'Ursula' signifies *little-she-bear* — not a very good denomination for a saint! *Ursula Shebeare*, a name I have somewhere met with, is, *in sound*, rather agreeable than otherwise, but, etymologically, how dreadful! The expression 'a bear,' sometimes applied to an unamiable specimen of the genus homo, is repulsive enough; a 'she-bear' is still more odious; but when *two she-bears* unite in one of nature's gentlest works, what word is sufficiently strong to express our abhorrence?

girl meet, while on this horrible errand, but the Count himself, who, suspecting that all was not right, demanded to know the contents of the basket. "Welfen," was the intrepid reply, (i. e. the old German term for puppies, and *now* traceable in our word whelps.) Dissatisfied with this explanation, the Count lifted up the cloth, and found under it eleven bonny infants nestled together. Their unblemished forms reconciled the scrupulous knight, and he resolved to recognise them as his lawful progeny. Thenceforward their children and their descendants went by the name of Guelph or Welf; and from these identical little innocents does our liege lady Victoria inherit her cognomen."—*Newspaper Paragraph.*

* Burke's Extinct Peerage.

† Encyc. of Antiq. p. 429.

Lupa was the name given as a sobriquet to the wife of Faustus and the nurse of Romulus and Remus, on account of the rudeness of her temper. Hence the well-known fable of those illustrious twins having been suckled by a she-wolf. Many of the classical tales of antiquity doubtless originated in similar misapprehensions; so also, let us charitably hope, did some of the most incredible miracles of medieval times. The case of the virgin-martyr *Undecemilla* having given rise to the story of the *eleven thousand* virgins is generally known.

“We should think Ass and Sow not very elegant names,” observes the witty author of *Heraldic Anomalies*, “and yet there were persons of respectability at Rome who bore them—no less indeed than the Cornelian and Tremellian families. The former got the name of Asinia by one of the family having agreed to buy a farm, who, being asked to give pledges for the fulfilment of his engagement, caused *an ass*, loaded with money, to be led to the Forum as the only pledge that could be wanted. The Tremellian family got the name of Scrophia or Sow, in a manner by no means reputable; but by what we should call, in these days, a *hoax*, and a very unfair one into the bargain. A sow having strayed from a neighbour’s yard into that of one of the Tremellii, the servants of the latter killed her. The master caused the carcase to be placed under some bed-clothes, where his lady was accustomed to lie, and, when his neighbour came to search for the pig, undertook to swear that there was no *old sow* in his premises, except the one that was lying among those bed-clothes, which his neighbour very naturally concluded to be *the lady herself*. How the latter liked the compliment the history does not relate, but from that time the Tremellii

acquired the cognomen of *Scrophæ* or *Sow*, which became afterwards so fixed a family name as to make *sows* of all their progeny, both male and female."

One of the Fabian family received the name of *BUZZARD* (*Buteo*), because a bird of this species (always regarded as a good omen) happened to fall upon the vessel in which he was making a voyage. *Corvinus* is an example, more generally known, to which I shall have occasion to refer in my next chapter.

These instances illustrate the first and second causes of the use of such names in my classification, as far as relates to animals; and the following remark is equally relevant of those belonging to the vegetable kingdom.

In the early periods of the Roman republic, when the plough was regarded as only second to the sword, and 'Bonus Agricola' was equivalent to 'Vir Bonus,' some of the noblest families adopted their family names from their having cultivated particular kinds of vegetables, as the *Fabii*, *Pisones*, *Lentuli*, and *Cicerones*, who were respectively famous for the excellence of their beans, peas, lentils and vetches.*

Our Anglo-Saxon ancestors sometimes gave as sobriquets to individuals the names of birds. Mr. Kemble mentions two ladies of those times who bore the appellations of *Crow* and *Duck* (*Crawe* and *Enede*.) With respect to the latter, Mr. K. most gallantly observes, "I would rather believe that modern slang had an antient foundation, than suggest that the lady's *walk* or *gait* had anything to do with the appellation."

With respect to the more modern and regular surnames of this sort, I would remark, that they generally occur in medieval records with the Norman-French

* Vide Adams's Roman Hist.

prefix 'LE,' as Roger le Buck, Nicholas le Hart, Richard le Stere, Adam le Fox, Peter le Hogge. In their primary application they were sobriquets, allusive, as in the cases above cited, either to the characteristic qualities of the persons, or to some incident of their lives. Of the latter class various instances will be found in the course of these volumes.

A few have been latinized, as *Leo*, *Avis*, *Mus* and *Aries*, and still retain that form.



CHAPTER XI.

OF SURNAMES DERIVED FROM HERALDRIC CHARGES AND FROM TRADERS' SIGNS.



T may appear somewhat incongruous to combine in one chapter Surnames derived from such opposite sources as those indicated above, and thus to associate the armorial shield of the patrician warrior with the sign-post of the plebeian innholder or shopkeeper. However *infra dignitatem* such a procedure may appear, it is quite necessary for the developement of my subject, though I cannot here give my reasons for it, without unduly anticipating certain matters and conclusions which will occur before this chapter is brought to a close.

I have already in another place partially discussed this subject, and must therefore be guilty of a little self-plagiarism here.* I would also premise that this chapter, although in the main supplementary to the preceding one, will necessarily embrace some surnames not borrowed from the kingdoms of Nature.

Armorial ensigns and family nomenclature possess

* *Curiosities of Heraldry*, p. 130.

several features in common. They originated about the same period, and in part from the same causes; and they serve alike to distinguish one race from another.

The most incurious observer must have noticed that very many heraldic bearings coincide with the surnames of the families to which they appertain. Thus the *Hérons* bear herons, the *Beevors* a beaver, the *Corbets* a raven, and the *Hogges* a boar. In all cases either the coat of arms or the surname must have originated first. When the surname was first adopted the arms are a mere play or pun upon it; and in a great majority of instances this is the case. A series of illustrations of these allusive or canting arms will be given in the Appendix. At present we have only to inquire into the fact of certain families having borrowed their names from the insignia of heraldry.

Salverte is of opinion that many of the chiefs who engaged in the Crusades assumed and handed down to their posterity names allusive to the devices which decorated their banners of war. He also notices the fact that there were in Poland, in the twelfth century, two families called respectively *Rose* and *Griffin*, because those objects formed their ensigns or armorial devices. Hereditary surnames were not established in Poland for some ages subsequently, and those two names do not now exist there, though the descendants of those who adopted them probably do. In Sweden, also, there is proof that the nobles followed such a practice: "One who bore in his arms the head of an ox assumed the name of *OXENSTIERN* (*front-de-bœuf*), and another adopted that of *SPARR* from the cheveron which formed the principal feature of his coat."*

* Salverte, i, 240.

“A particular instance of the armorial ensign being metonymically put for the bearer of it, occurs in the history of the Troubadours, the first of whom was called the Dauphin, or knight of the Dolphin, because he bore this figure on his shield. In the person of one of his successors the name Dauphin became a title of sovereign dignity. *Many other surnames were in this manner taken from arms*, as may be inferred from the ordinary phraseology of romance, where many of the warriors are styled knights of the Lion, of the Eagle, of the Rose, &c., according to the armorial figures they bore on their shields.”* To this we may add that at tournaments the combatants usually bore the title of knights of the Swan, Dragon, Star, or whatever charge was most conspicuous in their arms.†

“In the tournament and in the battle-field,” observes Salverte, “a knight presented himself with the vizor of his helmet down, and he was only known by the symbol he affected to bear. The designation of this symbol, associated as it was with every one of his glorious exploits, became a veritable surname.”

Before proceeding to more special instances in this country, I would refer to the classical story of the origin of the cognomen Corvinus, assumed by M. Valerius the Roman tribune, which is not wholly irrelevant of our subject. According to Eutropius, “*Quidam ex Gallis unum è Romanis, qui esset optimus, provocavit. Tum se Marcus Valerius, tribunus militum, obtulit, et cum processit armatus, Corvus ei supra dextrum brachium sedit mox, commissâ adversus Gallum pugnâ, idem corvus alis et unguibus Galli oculos verberavit, ne rectum posset aspicere, ita ut à Tribuno*

* Brydson's Summary View of Heraldry, pp. 98-9.

† Menestrier.

Valerio interfectus, non solùm victoriam ei, sed etiam nomen dederit. Nam postea idem *Corvinus* est dictus, ac propter hoc meritum, annorum trium et viginti consul est factus.”*

Eutropius is by no means an imaginative writer, and he doubtless delivers the story as he received it; but Salverte rejects it as fabulous, and observes that the name may be traced with much greater probability to a *figure of the bird which Valerius placed upon his helmet as a crest*. The distinction of a crest was peculiar to commanders,† and some occult virtue may have been ascribed to this of the tribune, as was often done to the swords of the heroes of romance, and thus the tale became current that he had achieved his victory by the help of a raven.

The illustrious line of PLANTAGENET derived their surname from the broom-plant, the badge of their founder.

The great English family of *Septvans* or ‘Sevenfans’ are said to have borrowed their name from their singular armorials, which were wicker baskets used for winnowing corn. It may be objected that the number of these objects borne by Sir Robert Septvans, as represented upon his tomb in Chartham church, co. Kent (1306) is but three. This does not prove, however, that the number may not originally have been

* Rom. Hist., lib. ii, cap. 6. “A certain Gaul challenged one of the Romans to a single combat, which Marcus Valerius, a military tribune, accepted. And as he went forth armed, a raven presently settled upon his right arm, and, after the combat commenced, so beat about the eyes of the Gaul with its wings and claws, that he could not see before him; in consequence of which he lost his life, and the tribune Valerius gained the victory and a name. For thenceforth he was called *Corvinus*; and on account of this service he was made consul for three and twenty years.”

† The crests of antient heroes were personal, not hereditary.



seven, as there are several instances of the diminution of a greater number of charges to *three* in those times; witness the royal arms of France, which were originally *semée-de-lis*, but reduced in this century to *three*. The arms of Trusbut are three water-bowgets, ‘très boutz,’ and Mr. Montagu thinks the name was taken from the bearings.*

The six swallows (in French *hirondelles*) in the arms of the eminent Cornish family of *Arundel*, furnish one of the most familiar instances of the agreement between the surname and the heraldic insignia of a family. In a poem by William de Brito, written in the twelfth century (an early age, be it remembered, in the history both of heraldry and of hereditary surnames), the Arundel of that period (about the year 1170) is asserted to have derived his name from the charge of his shield. He is represented as attacking William de Barr, a French knight.

“Vidit hirundela velocior alite quæ dat
Hoc agnomen ei, fert cujus in ægide signum,
Se rapit agminibus mediis clypeoque nitenti,
Quem sibi Guillelmus læva prætenderat ulna,
Immergit validam præacutæ cuspidis hastam.”

Camden's Remaines.

“Swift as the swallow, whence his arms’ device
And his own name are took, enraged he flies
Through gazing troops, the wonder of the field,
And sticks his lance in William’s glittering shield.”

C. S. Gilbert's Cornwall, vol. i, p. 470.

To this the genealogist will object that there is historical evidence that the Arundels took their surname

* Study of Heraldry, p. 70.

from the town of that name in Sussex; and this is really the case. Still our extract is not the less valuable, as proving from contemporary evidence that the practice of assuming a surname from the devices of the warrior's shield was not unknown.

Of the name *Griffinhoof*, Mr. Talbot observes, that it is "a literal translation of the German family name Greifen-klau, or the Griffin's-claw, which I conceive must have taken its origin from some armorial bearings or device assumed by that family." Mr. Talbot then quotes an old Latin poem of the tenth or eleventh century, in which the hero is represented as sallying forth in quest of adventures accompanied by a single esquire, and bearing suspended from his neck a *griffin's claw* adorned with polished brass by way of a hunting-horn.* It was probably made of some foreign material of unknown origin, and, upon the principle *omne ignotum pro mirifico*, ascribed to the fabulous creature half lion, half eagle, so familiar in heraldry. Mr. Way, in his edition of the 'Promptorium Parvulorum,' mentions several griffins' claws which were formerly preserved in various public collections. The one in the museum of the Royal Society, Dr. Grew pronounced to be the horn of a roebuck or of the *Ibex mas*.

We may fairly conclude, I think, that *sometimes* such surnames as *Lyon*, *Buck*, *Tiger*, *Leppard*, *Hawke*, *Raven*, *Heron*, and some others which indicate courage or agility, have been borrowed from the shields and banners of war; but let no man glorify himself with the notion that he is sprung from some stalwart Crusader who fought under his own banner at Acon; or descended from some doughty champion of the

* Vide English Etymologies, p. 302.

tournament, until he can show proof that the founder of his race was not a craftsman or an innholder who borrowed his name from his own *sign*!

I have only to add on this part of the subject, that there are a few surnames which can have no other than an heraldic source, such as *Cheveron* and *Barr*, in whose arms the 'cheveron' and 'bar' are the principal features. The names of *Saltire*, *Canton*, *Pile*, *Paly*, *Billet*, *Masclé*, are found among us, although the arms attached to them do not consist of the charges from which they seem to have been originally borrowed; while in some other cases, where the surname and arms agree, as in *Cross*, *Gore*, and *Delves*, the former may, with greater probability, be derived from other sources.

To turn to the more plebeian part of our subject—I will quote from Camden* a passage which will at once enable the reader to understand the origin of a vast multitude of our family names:

"Many names that seem vnfitting for men, as of brutish beasts, &c. come FROM THE VERY SIGNES of the houses where they inhabited; for I have heard of them which sayd they spake of knowledge, that some in late time dwelling at the signe of the Dolphin, Bull, Whitehorse, Racket, Peacocke, &c. were commonly called *Thomas at the Dolphin*, *Will at the Bull*, *George at the Whitehorse*, *Robin at the Racket*, which names, as many other of like sort, with omitting AT, became afterward hereditary to their children."

To this may be added the testimony of Salverte, whose aid is always valuable: "Some traders," says he, "derived their names from the emblems they had adopted

* Remaines, p. 102.

as the signs of their establishments, in the same manner as the nobles had taken theirs from armorial bearings."

Such signs, though now almost exclusively confined to inns, were formerly exhibited over the shop-doors of tradesmen. They formed one of the most curious features of our towns and cities in the 'olden tyme.' Every quadruped from the *lyon* and *hee-cow* (!) down to the *hedgehogge*,—every bird from the *eagle* to the *sparrowe*,—every *fysshe* of the sea, almost every object, in fact, artificial, natural, præternatural, and supernatural, good, bad, and indifferent, from the *angel* to the *devil*, lent its aid in those days to excite the attention of passers-by to the various articles of commerce exhibited for sale. This practice has long since given way to the more convenient one of numbering the houses of every street. It is still retained in many towns on the Continent.

The city of Malines is said to abound with signs, and they add much to the picturesque effect of the streets of that remarkable place.* Even in England some faint traces of the practice remain, particularly in the more antique portions of old cities and country towns, where we occasionally find the Golden Fleece at the Drapers', the Pestle and Mortar at the Apothecaries', the Sugar-loaf at the Grocers', &c. The Red Hat, the Golden Boot, the Silver Canister, and others of that kind, which are everywhere pretty numerous, are modern imitations of the antient fashion, and are certainly preferable to such names as 'Commerce House,' 'Waterloo Establishment,' and 'Albion House,' by which enterprising traders dignify their shops. A

* Vide Gent. Mag. March, 1842.

collection of antient signs still retained in use would be a curious and not uninteresting document. A great number of them might be collected from the imprints of old books.

A famous bridge built at Paris in 1609 was called *le Pont aux Oiseaux*: it was covered with houses uniformly built, painted with oil-colours, and distinguished by signs representing different birds.*

We may fairly conclude that the names adopted from signs generally originated in towns, as such names as Field, Wood, and Grove did in the country; a consideration not devoid of some interest, as from it a conclusion may be arrived at as to whether one's ancestors were citizens or 'rusticall men.'

In Pasquin's 'Night-Cap,' printed in 1612, we have the following lines, which show that at that comparatively recent date, individuals were recognizable by the signs of their shops;

"First there is maister Peter at the *Bell*,
 A linen-draper and a wealthy man;
 Then maister Thomas that doth stockings sell;
 And George the grocer at the *Frying-pan*;
 And maister Timothie the woollen-draper;
 And maister Salamon the leather-scraper;
 And maister Frank ye goldsmith at the *Rose*;
 And maister Philip with the fiery nose.

And maister Miles the mercer† at the *Harrow*;
 And maister Nicke the silkman at the *Plow*;
 And maister Giles the salter at the *Sparrow*;
 And maister Dicke the vintner at the *Cow*;

* Salverte.

† The word Mercer is now exclusively applied to dealers in silk; but its original and true meaning is a general dealer. Gospatric *Mercenarius* occurs in this sense among the burgesses of Clithero, co. Lancaster, in the twelfth century.

And Harry haberdasher at the *Horne* ;
 And Oliver the dyer at the *Thorne* ;
 And Bernard, barber-surgeon at the *Fiddle* ;
 And Moses, merchant-tailor at the *Needle*.”*

The following names are probably derived from this source :

Arrow, Axe, Barrell, Bullhead, Bell, Block, Board, Banner, Bowles, Baskett, Cann, Coulter, Chisel, Clogg, Crosskeys, Crosier, Funnell, Forge, Fyrebrand, Grapes, Griffin, Horne, Hammer, Hamper, Hodd, Harrow, Image (the sign originally in honour of some saint, perhaps), *Jugg, Kettle, Knife, Lance, Mallet, Maul, Mattock* (?), *Needle, Pail, Pott, Potts, Plowe, Plane, Pipes, Pottle, Patten, Posnet* (a purse or money-bag), *Pitcher, Rule, Rainbow, Sack, Saw, Shovel, Shears, Scales, Silverspoon, Swords, Tankard, Tabor* (a drum), *Trowel, Tubb, and Wedge*. I would have wound up this catalogue with a *WINCH* ! but that name is more probably derived from a place so called in the county of Norfolk.

Most of these were inn signs, particularly those which are denominations of vessels for containing liquors, as *Barrell, Potts, Tankard, &c.* In villages, in our own times, the trade of the innkeeper is often united to that of some handicraft. Hence come the names of tools, &c. Particular houses were formerly, as now, the resort of a particular class of artizans; thus the bricklayers would resort to the *Trowel* or the *Hodd*, the master of which would himself be a bricklayer; the carpenters to the *Chisel* or the *Mallet*; the blacksmiths to the *Hammer* or the *Forge*, the tailors to the *Needle, &c.*†

* Vide Gent. Mag. Jan. 1842.

† Nowadays the more pretending inn-keeping artificers give the armorials of their respective crafts as signs, e. g. the Blacksmiths' Arms, the

Phenix and *Spinks* (sphinx) might probably be added in this connexion.

As in the other classes of surnames, certain words which have become obsolete as to general use are retained; I would in particular notice *Cowlstick* (often refined to *Costic*), *Cade*,* *Cottrell*, and *Cresset*. A cowl is a vessel with two ears, generally made of wood,

Carpenters' Arms, &c.; those of a less ambitious grade give the Jolly Tanner, the Jolly Butcher, the Jolly Blacksmith, &c. '*Arms*' are occasionally '*found*' for callings hitherto unwarranted to bear them, as the Sawyers' Arms, the Navigators' Arms! There is some very queer heraldry recently sprung up, especially in the vicinity of railways, as the *Railway Arms* and the *TUNNEL ARMS*!! Both these occur at Lewes, as does also the *Mount-Pleasant Arms*!!!

* As I intend "to put into my book as much as my book will hold," I take an opportunity here, on mentioning the name of *Cade*, to correct an error into which most of our historians have fallen relative to that arch-traitor *Jack Cade*, temp. Hen. VI. They uniformly state that he was an *Irishman* by birth, but there is strong presumptive evidence that to Sussex belongs the unenviable claim of his nativity. Speed states that "he had bin seruant to Sir Thomas Dacre." Now this Sir Thomas Dacre or Dacre was a Sussex knight of great eminence, who had seats at Hurstmonceux and Heathfield, in this county. Cade has for several centuries been a common name about Mayfield and Heathfield, as is proved both by numerous entries in the parish registers and by lands and localities designated from the family. After the defeat and dispersion of his rabble-rout of retainers, Cade is stated to have fled into the woods of Sussex, where, a price being set upon his head, he was slain by Sir Alexander Iden, sheriff of Kent. Nothing seems more probable than that he should have sought shelter from the vindictive fury of his enemies among the woods of his native county, with whose secret retreats he was doubtless well acquainted, and where he would have been likely to meet with friends. The daring recklessness of this villain's character is illustrated by the tradition of the district, that he was engaged in the rustic game of bowls in the garden of a little alehouse at Heathfield, when the well-aimed arrow of the Kentish sheriff inflicted the fatal wound. The place is still called Cade Street; and the present writer once occupied for a short time the identical garden in which the rebel fell.

and for the sake of convenience carried between two, on a staff, thence called a cowl-staff or *cowl-stick*. CADE is an old word for a barrel or cask, and hence a very appropriate sign for an alehouse or tavern. COTTRELL, according to Grose, is a provincial word for a trammel for hanging an iron pot over the fire; but this name, as I have elsewhere shown, is as probably derived from a very different source. A CRESSET was an article used during the middle ages by soldiers; it was a kind of portable beacon made of wires in the shape of an inverted cone, and filled with match or rope steeped in pitch, tallow, resin, and other inflam-



mable matters. One man carried it upon a pole, another attending with a bag to supply materials and a light. Shakspeare and Milton both allude to the cresset as a familiar object :

“The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes
Of burning *cressets*.” *Henry IV, 1.*

“Pendent by subtle magic many a row
Of starry lamps and blazing *cressets*.” *Parad. Lost.*

I have made the annexed sketch of a cresset from a description in Fosbroke’s Encyclopædia : I cannot answer for its being very correct. A “cresset with burning fire” was formerly a badge of the Admiralty. In the Coventry Mysteries, p. 270, we read—

“*Cressetys, lanternys, and torches lyth.*”

This name, Cresset, is the designation of at least one family of gentry ; and should my humble lucubrations meet the eyes of any who happen to bear it, I trust they will pardon my insinuation that they are descended from tradesmen—vulgar persons who had great flaring signs over their doors—when they call to remembrance that *all* families of gentle blood must have been amongst the plebeian ranks of society, till some adventitious circumstance raised them to eminence and wealth. A large number of our peerage families are proud to record their descent from Lord Mayors of London, who must necessarily have been tradesmen ; and it is probable that many of our great houses of Norman origin, on tracing their pedigrees beyond the Conquest (were such a thing possible), would find themselves sprung from the poor and servile peasantry of Normandy. For pride of ancestry there is perhaps no antidote more salutary or more humiliating than a

calm consideration of the question proposed by the jester to the Emperor Maximilian, when engaged, one day, in making out his pedigree :

When Adam delbed and Ebe span,
Where was then the gentleman?

Bickerstaff (with its corruption *Bickersteth*) was probably the sign of an inn. It seems to mean a staff for tilting or skirmishing. (Vide Bailey's Dict. *voce* 'Bicker.') In the old ballad of Chevy Chase we read—

"Bowmen *bicker'd* upon the bent
With their broad arrows clear."

A *Brandreth* was an iron tripod fixed over the fire, on which the pot or kettle is placed (Halliw.); but the very similar word *Brandrith* means a fence placed for safety round a well. A *Hassell* was an instrument formerly used for breaking flax and hemp. Elsewhere I have deduced *Jubb* from the personal name, Job; but it may be from 'jubbe,' a medieval term for a vessel to hold wine or ale.

"With him brought he a *jubbe* of Malvesie
And eek another ful of wyn vernage."

Wright's Chaucer, 14481.

The singular name of *Burden* is probably a corruption of 'bourdon,' a pilgrim's staff—a very appropriate sign for a wayside hostelry.

Several names are borrowed from habiliments of the person, as *Cope*, *Mantell*, *Coates*, *Cloake*, *Meddlicote*, (that is, a coat of many or mixed colours, a favourite fashion of our ancestors,) *Bootes*, *Sandall*, *Slipper*, *Frocke*, *Hose*, *Hat*, *Bodicoate*, *Capp*, *Peticote*, *Freemantle*,

Gaicote, and *Mapes*.* I have no doubt that all these have been used as signs of houses, perhaps of inns; certain it is that there was a tavern in Southwark called the *Tabard* (a herald's coat), and a very famous tavern it was too, which will never be forgotten so long as the name of Chaucer survives.

“ Befelle, that in that season on a day
In Southwerk at the TABARD as I lay,
Redy to wenden on my pilgrimage
To Canterbury with devout coráge,
At night was come into that hostelrie,
Wel nine and twenty in a compaignie,
Of sondry folk, by aventure yfalle
In felawship, and pilgrimes were they alle,
That toward Canterbury wolden ride.”†

Startup is an obsolete name for rough còuntry boots with high tops.

“ A payre of *startuppes* had he on his feete,
That lased were up to the small of the legge;
Homelie they were, and easier than meete,
And in their soles full many a wooden pegge.”

Thynne's Debate (Halliwell).

Barrette (Fr.) is a cap or bonnet, and a *Capelin* (Fr. ‘capeline’) is another species of female head-dress.

Some of the names borrowed from habiliments, however, were given as sobriquets to those who first set the fashion of wearing them. Of this we have an instance in *Curtmantle*, the surname of our Henry the Second, given him from his having introduced the fashion of wearing shorter mantles than had been previously used. This rule was reversed in later days by one Spencer, who gave his surname to the article bear-

* Vide *Archæologist*, vol. i, p. 102.

† Chauc. Cant. Tales, Prologue.

ing that name ; which is said to have originated in the following manner : Spencer was a celebrated exquisite, who stood so high in these matters that he had only to don any particular fashion of garment, to be imitated by all the dandies of the day ; and so confident was he of his influence in this respect, that he once declared that he verily believed that if he wore a *coat without tails*, others would do the same. He assumed this ridiculous vestment—so did they !

The surname *Tabberer* was in all probability first applied to some wearer of the garment so called. According to Nares, the name of 'tabarder' is still given at Queen's College, Oxon, to the scholars, whose original dress, the tabard, was not peculiar to heralds.

Hugh *Capet*, the founder of the royal line of France in the tenth century, is said to have acquired that surname from a freak of which, in his boyhood, he was very fond ; that of snatching off the *caps* of his play-fellows. De la Roque, however, gives a different origin for this name, deriving it from 'le bon sens et esprit qui residoit à sa teste !'

The names derived from parts of ARMOUR, as *Helme*, *Shield*, *Greaves*, *Swords*, *Buckler*, *Gauntlett*, *Gunn*, *Muskett*, *Brownbill*, *Brownsword*, *Shotbolt*, and *Broad-spear*, were also, in all probability, signs of inns kept by those who first bore them. Some similar names, however, originated from fashions in warlike implements, and were given to the persons who first used them. *Strongbow*, the cognomen of the famous Earl of Pembroke, and *Fortescue*, that is, strong-shield, are of this kind. *Longespee*, the cognomen of William first Earl of Salisbury, and son of Fair Rosamond, was given him from his using a LONGER SWORD than usual ; and William, son of Robert de Belesme, Earl of Shrewsbury,

gained the name of *Talvas* from the kind of SHIELD so called. The French name *Beauharnois* is literally 'fine-harness,' and was originally applied to a person who took pride in splendid armour.

To return to Signs, there is another class of surnames referable to this origin, such as *Angel*, *Virgin*, *Saint*, *Apostles*, *Martyr*,—names quite inapplicable to any living man, unless through the medium referred to.

The ANGEL is still a common sign for inns, as SAINTS doubtless were before the Reformation. St. George and the Dragon still retain their *post* at the doors of some country alehouses. MARTYRS, too, I dare say, were plentiful enough in those days; but the only vestige of them remaining, so far as I am aware, is St. Catherine on her Wheel, now usually termed the Catton Wheel. Indeed, I am not quite sure whether it has not been corrupted still further to the Cat and Wheel! There are some other names of a religious cast, as *Crucifix*, *Challis*, *Paten*, *Hallowbread*, *Pix*, a little chest for the reception of the consecrated host; *Pascall*, another article used in the service of the church; and *Porteus*, a breviary or priest's office-book;* to which I am disposed to assign the same origin.

Several family names represent articles of DIET, &c., as *Butter*, *Drybutter*, *Figg* (an excellent name for a grocer†), *Honey*,‡ *Milk*,§ *Mustard*, *Pickles*, *Pepper*, *Salt*,

* "Item, I bequeath to the chappel of Richborough one *Portuys* printed, with a Mass-book which was Sir Thomas, the old Priest's." Will of Sir Jno. Saunder, parson of Dimchurch, &c. 1509. Somner's Ports of Kent. "By God and by this *portus* wil I swere." Wright's Chaucer, 14546.

† "Johnny Figg *was* a green and white grocer." *Old Song*.

‡ The number of Surnames of which Honey forms a component part is remarkable: *Honeymen*, *Honeysett*, *Honeychurch*, *Honeywood*, *Honeyball*, *Honeywill*, *Honeybone*, and *Hunnybum*!

§ There is a dairyman bearing this appropriate name near Dorset Square.

Sugar, Suet. Others correspond with beverages, as *Ale, Beer, Claret, Ginn, Portwine, Perry, Negus, Rum, Sider,* Sherry.* Some of these may have been given to persons who traded in the respective commodities, but the majority might probably have a more satisfactory origin. For instance, the name Earle is pronounced *Ale* in some districts, and *Beer* is the name of two small towns in the county of Devon, while *Rum* is the designation of one of the Hebrides.

I must not close this Chapter without adverting to one further batch of names connected with the foregoing; namely, those corresponding with the designations of the divinities and celebrated persons of classical antiquity, such as *Venus, Mars, Bacchus,† Homer, Tulley, Horace, Vergil, Cæsar.* These are doubtless derived from traders' signs. The former three would be appropriate for inns, the remainder for the shops of medieval dealers in books or their materials. So recently as the last generation a celebrated publisher gave his establishment the name of the 'Cicero's Head.'

It is sometimes amusing to find these immortal names in the oddest possible associations: "Many years have not elapsed," says Mr. Brady, in his humorous dissertation, "since HORACE drew beer at Wapping; HOMER was particularly famous for curing sore legs; and CÆSAR was unambitious of any other post than that of shopman to a mercer!"‡

* *Sider* or *Syder* may be synonymous with Sidesman, the name of a petty civil office.

† See, however, p. 76. The name of Steph. de *Venuse*, miles, occurs 31 Edw. I, a quo, *perhaps*, *Venus*.

‡ Since the above paragraph was written, a Julius Cæsar was found *fighting* in the *forum* or market-place of a town in Surrey with one '*Colpus*' and others. Cæsar, on this occasion, sustained a defeat, for a body of "*cærulei Britanni*" (in the shape of policemen) made him their prisoner, and

“*Pan*,” I am assured by a correspondent, “keeps a village inn.”*

Hector was the champion of Petersfield and an M.P.

Cato is a wire-worker on Holborn Hill.

Such surnames do not belong exclusively to England, for Victor Hugo† assures us that

M. *Janus* is a baker at Namur!

M. *Marius* a hairdresser at Arles!! and

M. *Nero* a confectioner at Paris!!!

Of Mr. *Sylvius*, one of the courtiers of Charles II, we are told, that he was “a man who had nothing of a Roman in him except the name.”‡

The failure of a person named Homer once gave rise to the following admirable (or execrable?) puns:

“That HOMER should a bankrupt be,
Is not so very ODD-D’YE-SEE,
If it be true, as I’m instructed,
So ILL-HE-HAD his books conducted!”§

Mr. *Potiphar* would probably experience some difficulty in tracing up to his Egyptian namesake.

brought him before the local bench, in petty sessions assembled. A detailed Commentary of this ‘Civil War’ was given in the *Sussex Express* in December last; and future editors of the warrior classic can do as they please about consulting it.

* Several Roman families bore names which as they fondly believed furnished proof of their descent from Gods and Heroes. Halesus passed as the descendant of Neptune, and the Antonia family derived themselves from Anton, the companion of Hercules. Virgil makes Cluentius a descendant of the hero Cloanthus—

“Cloanthus

. genus unde tibi Romane Cluenti.” *Æn.* v, 123.

And Julius Cæsar is deduced from Iulus (Ascanius):

“Julius, à magno dimissum nomen Iūlo.” *Æn.* i, 288.

† The Rhine, vol. i, p. 76.

‡ Grammont’s Memoirs.

§ Herald. Anom.

Had we not evidence that such names as *Colbrand*, *Guy*, and *Bevis* were antiently used as Christian names, I should not hesitate to add them to this catalogue of celebrated persons as being derived respectively from the Danish Giant, from the famous Earl of Warwick, and from the no less doughty, if less illustrious, Bevis of Southampton :

“ Which geaunt was myghtie and strong,
And full fourty feet was long ;
A foote he had betwene each brow,
His head was bristled like a sowe !”

Romance of Syr Bevis.

It is remarkable that there is still living at Southampton, the scene of his giantship's adventures, a *family of Bevis*, who from time immemorial have been located there ; but whether they are lineally or collaterally descended from this giant (whose effigies still adorn the Bar-gate of the town), I leave to the proper authorities at the Heralds' College to determine.

The name of *Littlejohn* may be imagined to have been borrowed from the far-famed compeer of that most redoubtable deer-killing, bishop-robbing, and sheriff-tormenting wight, Master Robyn Hood of Nottinghamshire. That the name of a person so popular, so courageous, and so worthy as in some respects this antient forester was, should be adopted as a surname by some lover of “ hunting craft and the green-wood glade,” in the next generation, would have been a circumstance by no means extraordinary. Lord Abinger's family may be descended from a representative of the no less renowned Will Scarlett, another of the worthies of ‘ merrie Sherwood.’



CHAPTER XII.

OF SURNAMES BORROWED FROM THE SOCIAL RELATIONS,
PERIODS OF TIME, AGE, &c. &c.



HERE are several English Surnames derived from consanguinity, alliance, and other social relations, which, Camden thinks, have originated from the necessity of a second appellative, when two persons bearing the same baptismal name resided in close proximity to each other. This is a feasible derivation for several of them, but for others it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to account. The following are more or less usual in many parts of England :

Father, Brothers, Brotherson and Cousins ; Oldson and Youngson ; Batchelor, Lover, Paramour, Bridegroom and Bride ; Neighbour, Gossip and Guest ; Husband, Young-husband and Goodhusband ; Master and Servant ; Masterman, Prentice and Nurse ; Friend and Foe ; Kinsman, Quaintance and Stranger.*

From obsolete words or forms :

Fader, father.

Waller, from the A.-S. 'waller-wente,' foreign men, strangers.

"Elles or Ellis, in British," says Hals, "is a son-in-

* W. le Youngehusbande. Subsidy Roll, Sussex, 1296.

law by the wife, and *Els* or *Ells*, a son-in-law by the husband." *

Beldam (beldame) formerly meant grandmother, and was a respectful term. In course of time it has become synonymous with hag or witch. Kennett applies it to "an old woman that lives to see a sixth generation descended from her." Spenser uses it in its original French signification, 'fair lady.' (Halliwell.) How it became an hereditary surname, is not very obvious. The same observation applies to another female name, which, however, does not exactly belong to this class — I mean *Rigmaiden*. 'A Rig' is deduced by Bailey from the Latin *ridendo*, and defined as 'a wanton, romping girl,' and this appellation was probably first affixed to some fourteenth-century hoyden. There were at least two families of our gentry who bore this name, with dissimilar coats of arms.†

Bellamy. Dr. Giles, in his notes on the Saxon Chronicle, considers this a corruption of the Norman name 'Belesme,' but Halliwell produces a host of authorities for the O. English, or rather French, 'Bel-Amy,' *fair friend*:

"*Belamy*, he seyde, how longe
Shal they folye y-laste?" *MS. Coll. Trin. Oxon*, 57.

Robert of Gloucester and Chaucer employ this word.

Farebrother, father-brother, a Scottish term for uncle; and a much more rational appellative than *Bairnsfather*, also a Scottish surname.

Leifchild. 'Lefe' is an archaism for love; and 'love-child' a provincialism for an illegitimate; still this name may mean no more than 'dear,' or 'beloved'

* D. Gilbert's Cornwall, vol. iii, p. 429.

† Vide Gent. Mag. 1830, i. 305.

child,' an opinion which is supported by the use of the phrase in the following lines, quoted by Halliwell, from a poem of the fifteenth century :

“ Therfor my *leffe chyld*, I schalle teche thê,
Herken me welle the maner and the gyse,
How thi sowle inward schalle aqueyntyd be
With thewis* good, and vertw in alle wysse.”

Filiol, a Norman name of high degree, is probably the French ‘*filleul*,’ equivalent to our own *Godson*.

From periods of age, or the phases of human existence, we have *Infant*, *Baby*,† and *Suckling*; *Littlechild*; *Child*, *Children* (!); *Boys* and *Littleboys*; *Goodboys* and *Tallboys*; *Stripling* and *Youngman*,—

“ The diapason closing full in *Mann* !”

To these may be added *Maiden*, and its latinization, *Virgo*. *Gasson* looks like a corruption of the French ‘*garçon*,’ a boy. *Littlepage* speaks for itself.

That some of these are corruptions, or words having a double meaning, is, I think, unquestionable. *Mann*, for instance, as I have already surmised, may be from the island in the Irish Sea; *Batchelor* is applicable otherwise as well as to an unmarried man; and *Boys*, with its compounds, is, in all likelihood, a mis-spelling and false pronunciation of the French *BOIS*, a wood. The French surname *Du Bois*, naturalized amongst us, is equivalent to our *Attwood*, &c. *Child* is frequently used by our old writers as a title. It seems to be equivalent to *Knight*. In the ‘*Faerie Queen*’ it is applied to the son of a king. *Child Waters*, the *Child of Elle* and *Gil* or *Child-Morice*, are personages well

* Manners, deportment.

† I have three or four authorities for this name.

known to the readers of Percy's *Reliques*. The word sometimes occurs in its plural form as *children*. Thus in the ballad of Sir Cauline :

“ The Eldridge knight he pricked his steed ;
 Syr Cauline bold abode :
 Then either shooke his trustye speare,
 And the timber these two *children* bare
 Soe soone in sunder slode ! (split.) ”

Perc. Rel. Ed. 1839, p. 12.

“ In former times the cognomen *Childe* was prefixed to the family name by the eldest son ; and the appellation was continued until he succeeded to the title of his ancestors, or gained new honours by his prowess.”*

To such names of distinction also belong *Rich* and *Poore*, *Vassall*, *Bond*, *Freeman*, *Freeborn*, and *Burrell*. *BOREL* is used in Chaucer in the sense of *LAY*, as *Borel-clerks*, lay clerks ; *Borel-folk*, laymen.

The surname of *Wardedu* or *Wardeux*, formerly borne by the feudal lords of Bodiham, co. Sussex, is of very singular origin. Henry, a younger son of the house of Monceaux, was a *WARD* of the Earl of OU in the thirteenth century, from which circumstance he left his antient patronymic, and assumed that of *WARD DE OU*. This Henry Wardeou or Wardedu was knight of the shire for Sussex in 1302.†

Harmer, a name of rather dangerous sound, is really very harmless if its origin be traced, as I rather suspect it may, to the German *armer*, poor.

Closely connected with some of the foregoing, are the names derived from periods of AGE, as *Young*, *Younger*, *Eld*, and *Senior*. *Rathbone*, from the Saxon, signifies ‘ an early gift.’

* London Encyc. 1836.

† Gleanings of Battel Abbey, p. 63.

This class of surnames presents some very strange anomalies; for instance, though *Eld* or *Senior* might serve very well to designate a man in the decline of life, how could it apply to his children? “Yong,” says Verstegan, “was derived from one’s fewness of yeares;” if so, every day of his life must have made the absurdity of the name increasingly apparent. How oddly do such announcements as the following sound: “Died, on Tuesday week, Mr. *Young*, of Newton, aged 97.” “The late Mr. *Cousins*, the opulent banker, of Kingston, is said to have left the whole of his property to public charities, as he could not ascertain that he had a single relative in the world!” “Died, on the 10th inst., Miss Bridget *Younghusband*, spinster, aged 84.” “Birth: Mrs. A. *Batchelor*, of a son, being her *thirteenth*,” &c. &c.

From periods of TIME we have several names, as *Spring*, *Summer*, *Winter*. The writer of the article “NAMES,” in the ‘Penny Cyclopædia,’ thinks these three corruptions of other words, because the remaining season, Autumn, does not stand as a surname. Thus, he says, Spring signifies a hill; Summer, *somner*;* and Winter, *vintner*. This is far-fetched; besides, I would not undertake to say that we have no Autumns in our family nomenclature. It is a word easily corrupted to the more natural spelling of Otham or Hotham, although I am quite aware that some families bearing that designation take it from places where they were originally settled.† Moreover, it is no greater

* See p. 129.

† “The non-existence of *Autumn* as a surname may be accounted for by the recent introduction of that word into English: ‘fall’ was the old name for the season, and is still retained in America. *Fall* occurs as a surname, though not so frequently as *Spring*, probably because not of such good augury.”—*From a Correspondent*.

matter of surprise that names should be borrowed from the seasons than from the months, the days of the week, and festivals of the church, like the following: *Day*, with its compounds *Goodday*, *Singleday*, and *Doubleday*; *Evening*, *Mattin*, *Vesper*, *Dawn*, *Noon*, *Eve*, *Morrow*, *Weekes*; *March*, *May*, *August*; *Sunday*, *Monday*, *Thursday*, *Friday*; *Christmas* (and *Noel*, Fr.), *Easter*, *Paschall*, *Pentecost*, *Harvest*, *Middlemiss*, that is, if I mistake not, *Michaelmas*; *Holiday*, *Midwinter*, &c. *Domesday* seems to be a corruption of "*domus Dei*," a name given to some religious houses. We are not singular in the possession of such names: the Romans had their *Januarii*, *Martii*, *Maii*, *Festi*, and *Virgilii*—the last so named from having been "borne at the rising of the *Virgiliæ* or seven stars, as Pontanus learnedly writeth against them which write the name *Virgilius*."*

Varro says that when two or more persons among the Romans bore the same appellative, *Terentius*, for instance, they were distinguished from each other by an additional name; thus, if one was born early in the morning, he would be called *Manius*; if in the day-time, *Lucius*; if after the death of his father, *Posthumus*.†

In Cambodia, at the present time, a child is frequently named from the day on which he was born; and in some parts of Abyssinia, according to Salt, the father often gives his infants names allusive to the circumstances under which they came into the world, as 'Night-born,' 'Born-on-the-Dust,' &c.

On the name of *Day* it may be remarked that it may signify one of the humblest class of husbandry

* Remaines, p. 111.

† De Latinâ linguâ, lib. viii.

servants, or, as we now call them, day-labourers. In a statute of Rich. II. regulating wages, we have "a swineherd, a female labourer, and a *deye*," put down at six shillings per annum.* *Deye* is also an Old English term for a dairy-maid, and as such is used by Shakspeare.

It is probable that most of these names originated from the period of the birth of the persons to whom they were first assigned, or from some notable event which occurred to those persons on the particular day or month. The name *Friday*, which De Foe makes Robinson Crusoe give to his savage, is extremely natural. Perhaps they were occasionally applied to foundlings, after the fashion mentioned in Crabbe's 'Parish Register:'

"Some hardened knaves that roved the country round,
Had left a babe within the parish bound.

* * * * *

But by what name th' unwelcome guest to call
Was long a question, and it 'posed' them all;
For he who lent it to a babe unknown,
Censorious men might take it for his own.
They look'd about; they gravely spoke to all,
And not one *Richard* answered to the call.
Next they enquired THE DAY when, passing by,
Th' unlucky peasant heard the stranger's cry.
This known, how food and raiment they might give
Was next debated, for the rogue *would live*!
At last, with all their words and work content,
Back to their homes the prudent vestry went,
And RICHARD MONDAY to the workhouse sent."

I shall close this short Chapter with a few names, without offering a single conjecture as to their origin, viz. *Quickly*, *Soone*, *Quarterly*, *Sudden*, *Later*, *Latter*,

* Knight's Pictorial Shakspeare.

and *Last*. Well may Master Camden remark of such—
“TO FIND OUT THE TRUE ORIGINALL OF SURNAMES
IS FULL OF DIFFICULTY,” an observation which also
applies with equal if not greater force to many others
which will occur in subsequent chapters.



CHAPTER XIII.

OF SURNAMES INDICATIVE OF CONTEMPT AND RIDICULE.

“J’ai été tousjours fort etonné, que les Familles qui portent un Nom ODIEUX OU RIDICULE, ne le quittent pas.”—BAYLE.



THE *Leatherheads* and *Shufflebottoms*, the *Higginses* and *Huggenses*, the *Scroggses* and *Scraggses*, the *Sheepshanks* and *Ramsbottoms*,* the *Woodheads* and *Addleheads*, the *Hytches* and the *Huddles*, seem for the most part to have entertained no such dislike to their surnames, because, perhaps, having examined them etymologically, they have found nothing in them which ought to be taken *in malâ parte*. But it is indeed remarkable, that many surnames really expressive of bodily deformity or of moral obliquity, should have descended to the *posterity* of those who perhaps well deserved, and so could not escape them; particularly when we reflect how easily such names might have been avoided in almost every state of society by the adoption of others; for although in our days it is considered an act of villany, or at least a ‘suspicious affair,’ to change one’s name unless in compliance with the will of a deceased friend, when an

* The Doctor.

act of the senate or the royal sign-manual is required, the case was widely different four or five centuries ago, and we know from antient records that names *were* frequently changed at the caprice of their owners. The law seems originally to have regarded such changes, even in the most solemn acts, with great indifference. Lord Coke observes : " It is requisite that a purchaser be named by the name of baptism and his surname, and that special heed be taken to the name of baptism, for that a man cannot have two names of baptism as he may have divers surnames." And again, " It is holden in our antient books that a man may have divers *names* at divers times, but not divers Christian names."

" The question how far it is lawful for an individual to assume a surname at pleasure came before Sir Joseph Jekyll, when Master of the Rolls in 1730, who, in giving judgment upon the case (*Barlow v. Bateman*), remarked, ' I am satisfied the usage of passing Acts of Parliament for the taking upon one a surname is but modern, and that any one may take upon him what surname, and as many surnames, as he pleases, without an Act of Parliament.' It is right, however, to add, that the above decision was reversed by the House of Lords."*

Names of this unenviable description are not very numerous ; still we have *Bad*, *Trollope*, that is, slattern, *Stunt*, that is, fool, *Wanton*, *Outlaw*, *Lawless*, *Parnell*, that is, a woman of stained character, *Puttock*, the same, *Bastard*, *Silly*, *Silliman*, *Harlott*, *Hussey*, *Trash*, *Gubbins*, the refuse parts of a fish, and *Gallows*, which strongly implies that the founder of that family attained

* *Archæologia*, vol. xviii, p. 110.

a station more *exalted* than enviable before he left the world!

Bene or *Bean* is an expression of contempt, the meaning of which is obscure.* Sometimes, however, it means good, and sometimes, obedient. *Coe* is a Norfolk provincialism, employed to designate 'an odd old fellow.' *Cokin* (whence *Cockin*) is the Anglo-Norman for 'rascal.'

"Quoth Arthour, thou hethen *cokin*,
Wende to thi devel Apolin." (Apollyon.)

Arthour and Merlin.

Pennyfather is a penurious person:

"Rich mysers and *pennyfathers*."

Topsell's Beasts, 1607.

"Ranke *penyfather*s scud, with their half hammes
Shadowing their calves, to save their silver dammes."

Morgan's Phoenix Britan. (Halliwell.)

Kennard, antiently *Kaynard*, from 'caignard' (Fr.), literally means "you dog." It also signifies a sordid fellow, a rascal.

"A *kaynard* and an old folte,
That thryfte hath loste, and boghte a bolte."

MS. Harl. 1701. (H.)

Cheale, in the southern dialect, is probably the same with *chield* in the northern, where it is applied to persons in a slighting, contemptuous manner. The A.-S. 'ceorl,' whence our modern English 'churl,' is probably the root. *Goff* means fool.†

Craven, the surname of a noble family, might be

* Percy's Rel. Ant. Poet.

† 'To give a *goff*,' is a phrase used among the vulgar in Sussex, to express a peculiar contortion of the face indicative of extreme stupidity.

thought to belong to the same class,* but this is a local name derived from a district in Yorkshire.

The surname *Devil* is found in many countries. 'Wilielmus cognomento Diabolus' was an English monk. In France we meet with Rogerius Diabolus, lord of Montresor, and Hughes le Diable, lord of Lusignan, not to mention Robert the Devil, duke of Normandy, who had this delicate cognomen as a 'nom de nique.' In Norway and Sweden there were two families of the name of *Trolle* (devil), and every branch of these families had a figure of the Evil One for their coat of arms. Diable occurs in Brittany, and *Teufels* (or devils) in Holland.†

In the rage for applying opprobrious epithets indulged by our ancestors, even the infernal regions supplied a surname. A priory of Dominicans was founded at King's Langley, co. Herts, by Roger *Helle*, an English baron, presumed to be of the Lucy family, who lived at the beginning of the thirteenth century, and was so called because he had 'played the devil' with the Welsh: "*à Vallensibus ita cognominatus, eo quod eosdem Wallicos, regi Angliæ rebelles, tanquam inferni (sic) undique devastavit.*"‡

Many of the names mentioned in former chapters might be placed among these surnames of contempt. Such also are many of those indicative of ill-formed limbs or features, as *Cruickshank*, or *Crookshanks*, *Longshanks*, *Legless*, *Hunchback*, *Greathead*, *Longnesse*, &c. The antient Romans, like ourselves, had many

* CRAVEN, antiently a term of disgrace, when the party that was overcome in a single combat yielded and cried *Cravent*, &c.—*Bailey's Dictionary*.

† Hone's Table Book, vol. i, p. 699.

‡ Weever's Fun. Mon. edit. 1631, p. 583. Gough, i, 349.

family names implying something defective or disgraceful. Their Plauti, Pandi, Vari, Scauri, and Tuditani would have been with us the Splay-foots, the Bandy-legs, the In-knees, the Club-foots, and the Hammer-heads! The meanness of the origin of some of the Patrician families is hinted at in their names. The *Suilli* were descended and denominated from a swine-herd, the *Bubulci* from a cow-herd, and the *Porci* from a hog-butcher! Strabo would have been with us a *Mr. Squintum*, Naso (Ovid) a *Mr. Bignose*, and Publius, the proprætor, a *Mr. Snubnose*. Cincinnatus, and the curly poll of the Dainty Davie of Scottish song, are, strange to say, identical ideas.*

There is no doubt, I think, that such names as Servus (slave) and Spurius (illegitimate) originally indicated the real condition of their primitive owners, though Salverte very ingeniously attempts to disprove it.† The modern Italians are not more courteous than their ancestors of "old Rome" in the names they give to some families; as, for instance, Malatesta, chuckle-headed; Boccanigras, black-muzzled; Porcina, a hog; and Gozzi, chubby-chops!

To this place may also be referred the by-names of kings, as Unready, Shorthose, Sans-terre, Crookback. William the Conqueror was so little ashamed of the illegitimacy of his birth, that he sometimes commenced his charters with WILLIAM THE BASTARD, &c.!

Among other names not yet mentioned may be noticed *Whalebelly* (for which, with all the rest that follow, I have good authority), the designation, probably, of some corpulent person; *Rotten*, *Bubblejaw*, and *Röddenheryng*, a name which occurs in some antient

* Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.

† Essai, i, 162.

records of the town of Hull, and was most likely given, in the first instance, to a dishonest dealer in fish. Indeed, I have little doubt that these odd appellations all applied with great propriety to those who primarily bore them. How well might *Save-all* designate a miserly fellow ! and *Scrape-skin* would answer the same purpose admirably. *Doubleman* would be odious if it related to duplicity of character, but humorous if it originated in some person's being double the *size* of ordinary people. *Stabback* and *Killmaster*, though really horrible in sound, are not so in sense, as they are corruptions of local names.

Ugly and *Badman* are not desirable appellatives, though of very honourable extraction : the former is the name of a village in Essex, and the latter a slight contraction of 'beadman,' one who prays for another, —certainly no bad man would do that ! *Blackmonster* again does not bespeak our admiration, though it is a natural and not very distant departure from Blanchminster ('the white monastery') a local name.

Opprobrious surnames have certainly diminished in number within the last four centuries. Our old records, both civil and ecclesiastical, abound with them. Dr. Whitaker says, "if any antiquary should think fit to write a dissertation on the antiquity of nicknames in England, he may meet with ample materials in the Compotus of Bolton Abbey ; for here are found Adam *Blunder*, Simon *Paunche*, Richard *Drunken*, Tom *Noght*, and *Whirle* the carter—the last, I suppose, by an anti-phrasis, from the slowness of his rotatory motions."

The records of Lewes Priory afford many names of this kind. *Oculus Ferreus* ('iron eye') was a donor of tythes ; *Moper* was an excellent name for a recluse, and William *Cakepen* was literally a baker (pistor) ; *Mange-*

fer ('eat-iron') might have given an ostrich for his crest; *Ylbod* (ill-bode) and *Malfeythe*, if there be any truth in names, were men to be avoided; while William *de Toto Mundo* must have travelled very extensively. *Pympe*, *Scoldecok*, *Greybaster*, *Takepaine*, *Burdenbars*, and *Sikelfot* (sickle-foot?—a friend suggests 'siker,' that is *sure*, foot, as a better etymon), also occur in these documents.

It is perhaps scarcely fair to take many of the above names *au pied de la lettre*, as they may not be really what they appear at the first sight or sound; "and a more diligent search into our own antient dialects, as well as into those foreign ones from whence we receive so many recruits, would doubtless rescue some of them from unmerited opprobrium." Nor should it be forgotten that in the mutations to which a living language is ever exposed many expressions which now bear a bad sense had originally a very different meaning: the words knave, villain, and rascal, for instance, would not have been regarded as opprobrious in the thirteenth century. The name *Coward* may be adduced in support of these remarks. "The Argillarius or *Hayward* of a town or village was one whose duty it was to supervise the greater cattle, or common herd of beasts, and keep them within due bounds. He was otherwise called *Bubulcus*, q. d. *Cow-ward*, whence the reproachful term *Coward*." * With respect to the term nickname, I may observe that it comes to us from the French (*nom de nique*), in which language *nique* is a movement of the head to mark a contempt for any person or thing.

The following anecdote will serve to show how easily, even in modern times, a nickname may usurp the place

* Rees's Encyclopædia.

of a true family name. "The parish clerk of Langford near Wellington, was called Red Cock for many years before his death; for having one Sunday slept in church, and dreaming that he was at a cock-fighting, he bawled out: 'a shilling upon the red cock!' And behold," says Lackington, "the family are called *Red-cock* to this day."*

* Lackington's Life.



CHAPTER XIV.

OF SURNAMES DERIVED FROM THE VIRTUES, AND OTHER ABSTRACT IDEAS;

WITH SOME OTHERS RELATED TO THESE.



Y business, here, is first to name—and then to endeavour to account for—such names as *Hope, Peace,* Joy, Love; Anguish, Bliss, Conscience, Comfort, Death, Grace, Justice, Liberty, Luck, Laugh-ter, Mercy, Pardon, Piety, Power, Pride, Patience, Prudence, Reason, Ransom, Verity, Virtue, War, Want, and Wisdom.* To these may be added *Bale*, sorrow or misery, and a few other obsolete terms of similar character.

It can hardly be supposed that these names were assumed by persons who fancied themselves pre-eminent for the possession of such attributes. Such arrogance would certainly have failed of its object, and have exposed the assumers to the contempt they deserved. To this remark it may be objected that the Puritans of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries adopted a nomenclature precisely similar in the personal or Christian names, which they are asserted to have taken up in

* The name Peace-of-Heart, *Paix-du-Cœur*, occurs among the merchants of Rouen.

lieu of the more ordinary and long-established appellatives of general society.

“It was usual,” says Hume, (quoting Brome’s Travels,) “for the pretended saints of that time [A.D. 1653] to *change* their names from Henry, Edward, Anthony, William, which they regarded as heathenish and ungodly, into others more sanctified and godly. Sometimes a whole godly sentence was adopted as a name. Here are the names of a jury inclosed in Sussex about this time :

“Accepted Trevor of Norsham.
 Redeemed Compton of Battle.*
 Faint-not Hewett of Heathfield.
 Make-peace Heaton of Hare.
 God-reward Smart of Fivehurst.
 Stand fast-on-high Stringer of Crowhurst.
 Earth Adams of Warbleton.
 Called Lower of the same.
 Kill-sin Pimple of Witham.
 Return Spelman of Watling.
 Be-faithful Joiner of Britling.
 Fly-debate Roberts of the same.
 Fight-the-good-fight-of-faith White of Emer.
 More-fruite Fowler of East-Hadley.
 Hope-for Bending of the same.
 Graceful Harding of Lewes.
 Weep-not Billing of the same.
 Meek Brewer of Okeham.”

Had Hume taken a little pains to investigate this subject he might have saved himself the reiteration of

* Minister of Heathfield (1608.)

Brome's sneer about the "pretended saints," for we have indubitable evidence that such names were not *assumed* by the parties who bore them, but *imposed as baptismal names*. Take, in corroboration of this remark, a few instances from the parochial register of Warbleton :

1617, Bestedfast Elyarde.

—— Goodgift Gynninges.

1622, Lament Willard.

1624, Depend Outered.

1625, Faint-not Dighurst.

—— Fere-not Rhodes.

1677, Replenish French.

Hence it will be seen that fully as much of blame (if any exist) rests with the clergy who performed the rite of baptism in these cases as with the "sanctified and godly" parents who proposed such names of pretended saintship. I do not for a moment wish to extenuate the folly of the persons who gave such absurd names to their children, but I deem it an act of justice to the much-maligned, though, in many respects, misguided and even fanatical Puritans of that period, to show that the sarcasm of the illiberal historian falls pointless to the ground, because, generally speaking at least, the bearers of such names had nothing at all to do with their imposition, and could no more get rid of them than any persons now living can dispense with the Christian names they have borne from their infancy. Indeed it seems to have become fashionable towards the close of the sixteenth century for parents to choose such forenames for their offspring, and scarcely any of the parish registers of the period, that I have examined, are free from them. It seems that Sussex was parti-

cularly remarkable for the number of such names, long before the unhappy dissensions which disgraced the middle portion of the seventeenth century. There is another jury-list of the same kind for the county in the Burrell Manuscripts, Brit. Mus. without date, but which I have good reason for assigning to about the year 1610, many years, be it remarked, prior to the era of Barebones and his "pretended saints;" and Camden, who wrote about the same time, alludes to these "new names, Free-gift, Reformation, Earth, Dust, Ashes, Delivery, More-fruit, Tribulation, The Lord is neare, More-tryall, Discipline, Joy-againe, From-above, which have *lately* [that is probably about the close of Elizabeth's reign] *been given by some to their children* with no evil meaning, but upon some singular and precise conceit." The names 'Remedium amoris,' 'Imago sæculi,' are mentioned by this author, among the oddities of personal nomenclature of the same date.

While upon this subject, I am sure I shall be pardoned for the introduction of the other Sussex jury-list just referred to, particularly as it will probably be new to most readers.

"Approved Frewen of Northiam.*

Bethankful Maynard of Brightling.

Be-courteous Cole of Pevensey.

Safety-on-High Snat of Uckfield.

* He was a near relative of Archbishop Frewen; and, since the authenticity of these lists has been questioned, I would add, that my somewhat intimate acquaintance with the parish registers of Eastern Sussex enables me to state that many of the names they contain, besides hundreds of others, are to be found in those documents. The following extract from the register of Waldron may serve as a specimen of many entries I have met with:

"*Flie-fornication, the bace sonne of Catren Andrewes, bapt. y^e 17th. Desemb. 1609.*"

Search-the-Scriptures Moreton of Salehurst.
 More-fruit Fowler of East-Hothly.
 Free-gift Mabbs of Chiddingly [1616].
 Increase Weeks of Cuckfield.
 Restore Weeks of the same.
 Kill-sin Pemble of Westham.
 Elected Mitchell of Heathfield.
 Faint-not Hurst of the same.
 Renewed Wisberry of Hailsham.
 Return Milward of Hellingly.
 Fly-debate Smart of Waldron.
 Fly-fornication Richardson of the same.
 Seek-wisdom Wood of the same.
 Much-mercy Cryer of the same.
 Fight-the-good-fight-of-Faith White of Ewhurst.
 Small-hope Biggs of Rye.
 Earth Adams of Warbleton.
 Repentance Avis of Shoreham.
 The-peace-of-God Knight of Burwash.

This species of nomenclature, then, appears to have been extensively fashionable at the periods above referred to ; and although I entirely concur with those who object to it on the ground of *taste*, we should do well to recollect that many well-accepted baptismal names are equally objectionable for the same reason. Rejoice Newton is not more puritanical than Letitia Smith ; nor Lovegod Jones than Theophilus Brown ; nor Pure Robinson than Catharine Styles ; nor Good Noakes than Agatha Sutton.* In Beverston church,

* One Deodatus was Archbishop of Canterbury ; and in the list of African primates we find 'Deo-datus,' 'Deo-gratias,' 'Quid-vult-Deus,' 'Habet-Deum;' while 'Pius' and 'Innocent' have frequently been assumed by tenants of the holy see. Of Puritan bishops we have read ; of Puritan *popes*, never !

co. Gloucester, is the following curious *Puritan* memorial :

“ Here lieth the body of *KATHERINE PURVE*, the wife of *Thomas Purpe*, minister of the word in this place, who dyed the 1 Day of Decemb: in the yeare of the Lorde 1604, and of her life the 67th.

“ Quæ defuncta jacet saxo tumulata sub illo
Bis Cathara, haud ficto nomine, dicta fuit.
 Nomen utrumque sonat mundam, *puram*, *piamq.* :
 Et vere nomen quod referebat, erat.
 Nam *puram puro* degebat pectore vitam,
Pura fuit mundo, nunc mage *pura* Deo.

“ Πάντα καθαρὰ τοῖς καθαροῖς.

Omnia pura puris.

Tit. i, ver. 15.

“ She whom this stone doth quietly immure
 In no feign'd way had twice the name of *Pure* ;
 Pure, pious, clean, each name did signify,
 And truly was she what those names imply ;
 For in pure paths, while yet she lived, she trod ;
 Pure was she in this world, and now more pure with God.”*

To return from this long, though not perhaps irrelevant digression, to the names which stand at the head of this chapter : I am inclined to think they originated in the allegorical characters who performed in the antient mysteries or moralities ; a species of dramatic pieces, which before the rise of the genuine drama served to amuse, under the pretext of instructing, the

* Relton's Sketches of Churches, B. 2.

play-goers of the "olden tyme." The favourite characters in these performances were Charity, Faith, Prudence, Discretion, Good-doctrine, Death, Vice, Folly, and Iniquity,* who strutted upon the stage in grotesque costume, and did far more to injure than promote good morals. The humour of these performers was of the broadest kind, and their acting irresistibly droll, but indecencies both in gesture and language neutralized their attempts to improve the moral feelings of their audiences, and eventually brought them into disrepute. It is probable that the actors in these performances acquired the names of the characters they personated, which thus became surnames, and descended to their posterity. We have already seen that the names King, Lord, Knight, &c. originated in a manner very similar.

The not very uncommon name *Vice* is doubtless borrowed from a character in the mysteries and pageants of the middle ages. "He appears," says Gifford, "to have been a perfect counterpart of the Harlequin of the modern stage, and had a twofold office; to instigate the hero of the piece to wickedness, and, at the same time, to protect him from the Devil, whom he was permitted to buffet and baffle with his wooden sword, till the process of the story required that both the protector and the protected should be carried off by the fiend; or the latter driven roaring from the stage by some miraculous interposition in favour of the repentant offender." The name seems also to have been applied generally to any impersonation of wickedness. In Ben Jonson's 'The Devil is an Ass,' we read:—

* Strutt's Sports and Pastimes.

“*Sat.* What Vice?

What kind wouldst thou have it of?

Pug. Why, any: Fraud,

Or Covetousness, or Lady Vanity,

Or old Iniquity.”*

The name of *Woodhouse* may be either a local one, or the designation of a favourite character in the mumming and Christmas festivities of our ancestors—if the latter, it may find a place here. The *Wodehouse*, or Wild Man of the Woods, was usually represented as a hairy monster wreathed about the temples and loins with holly and ivy, and much resembling the “wild man,” so familiar in heraldic bearings. I am inclined to think he was originally derived from the Woden of the Saxon mythology. The etymon of Woden appears to be *pode*, mad, wild, furious, which agrees well enough with the assumed character of the “Wodehouse straunge” of the olden days of merrie England. As the Wodehouse was distinct from the religious cast of the characters who performed in the Mysteries just referred to, he survived the Reformation, and continued to be a favourite till a comparatively recent period. “When Queen Elizabeth was entertained at Kenilworth Castle, various spectacles were contrived for her amusement, and some of them produced, without any previous notice, to take her, as it were, by surprise. It happened about nine o’clock one evening, as her majesty returned from hunting, and was riding by torch-light, there came suddenly out of the wood by the road-side, a man habited like a savage, covered with ivy, holding in one of his hands an oaken plant torn up by the roots, who

* Knight’s Pict. Shakspeare.

placed himself before her, and after holding some discourse with a counterfeit echo, repeated a poetical oration in her praise, which was well received. This man was Thomas Gascoyne the poet; and the verses he spoke on the occasion were of his own composition.”*



As an accompaniment to this Chapter I here present the “lively effigies” of a Wodehouse, “set down,” as old Verstegan would say, “in picture.”

* Nicholl's Progresses, vol. i, quoted in Hone's Strutt's Sports and Pastimes, p. 253.



CHAPTER XV.

OF SURNAMES DERIVED FROM OATHS AND EXCLAMATIONS.



T is highly probable that not a few of the family names which baffle the etymologist, and seem to have no manner of propriety in them, were originally applied to persons who habitually employed some oath or other exclamation, and so interlarded their conversation with it, that it was associated with all their neighbours' recollections of them. In a rude state of society these expressions would become the sobriquets by which such persons would be known; and upon the establishment of an hereditary nomenclature they would descend as veritable surnames.

How readily any habitual expression of a person may be turned against him by his neighbours, and become a nickname, must be familiar to all who have had some experience of village life. We have known a stammerer acquire a sobriquet from the broken syllables of his rapid speech. *Say-Say* was the established appellation of an old gentleman whose address in conversation was uniformly, "I say-say, old boy;" while another was constantly called *By George*, from his use of that expression on all occasions. In the same manner the whole nation of the Teutonic Normans, after their settlement in Neustria, acquired from the

French the sobriquet of *Bigod*, because (as Camden says) "at every other word they would swear "By God."* Thus 'Norman' and 'Bigod' became synonymous expressions. Hence our old English baronial surname *Bigod*, and hence, as philologists assure us, the English word 'bigot,' which was antiently equivalent to superstitious. And it is not a little curious that the equivalent French oath, 'Par-Dieu,' has become naturalized among us under the various modifications of *Pardew*, *Pardoe*, *Pardow*, and *Pardee*.

The singular name of *Parcel*, sometimes written *Parsall*, is probably corrupted from 'Par-Ciel,' and corresponds with the indigenous one of *Heaven*.

Profane swearing was one of the commonest vices of early times. To make asseverations by the soul or the body of the Creator was thought little of. Edward the Third had the motto—

"Hay, hay, the wythe Swan ;

By Gode's soul I am thy man,"

wrought upon his shield and surcoat. I think the family names of *Godsall* and *Godbody* are from this source.

Body and *Soul*, with their corruptions *Sowle* and *Boddy*, may have the same origin.

* The occasion when the sobriquet was given was as follows :—"When Rollo had Normandy made over to him by Carolus Stultus, with his daughter Gisla, he would not submit to kiss Charles's foot. And when his friends urged him by all means to kiss the king's foot, in gratitude for so great a favour, he made answer in the English tongue *Ne se by God*, that is, Not so by God. Upon which the king and his courtiers deriding him, and corruptly repeating his answer, called him *Bigod*; from whence the Normans are to this day termed *BIGODI*." (Camd. Britannia, edit. 1722. vol. i, p. ccix.) Rollo's answer, however, was not *English*, but the old Teutonic of his ancestors.

Godhelpe, *Godbehere*, *Godmefetch* were probably habitual expressions of the persons who first acquired those names. These are all names of great antiquity ; so also are *Olyfader* (Holy Father) and *Helpusgod*, occurring in the Sussex Subsidy Rolls for 1296.

Many of the names of Saints may have become surnames in this manner ; and hence we may account for the various names of which ‘ Lady ’ forms a part. In Catholic times, ‘ By our Lady ’ was a common oath. Among the names referred to are *Ladyman*, *Shakelady*, *Tiplady*, *Taplady*, and *Toplady*, and that most odd and most polysyllabic of English Surnames—*God-love-milady* !

Godkin, *Blood*, and *Sacré* (Fr.) may be regarded as ‘ clipped oaths,’ while *Bodkin* is, perhaps, a contraction of the medieval oath, ‘ Ods bodikins.’

I shall close this short Chapter with a list of names of very doubtful origin, but which may have been derived in each case from some expression much used in conversation by the person to whom it was originally given :

Truly, *Fudge*, *Hayday*, *So* (?), *Heigho*, *Hum*, *Well-done*, *Goodlad*, *Farewell*, *Goodsir*, *Godsalve*, *Goodluck*.

Goodday, *Godden* (good-even), still used in the North.

Belcher is, perhaps, the O. French *bel chere*, good company :

“ For cosynage and eek for *bele cheer*.” *Chaucer*, 14820.



CHAPTER XVI.

OF OTHER SURNAMES ORIGINALLY SOBRIQUETS.



GREAT proportion of nearly all the preceding classes of Surnames were in their primary application merely nicknames or sobriquets; but there are many others which do not admit of classification with any of the kinds already reviewed. I shall proceed to give a few of these, with their probable derivations.

Some seem to have been imposed on account of peculiarities of gait, as *Steptoe*, *Standfast*, *Golightly*, *Rushout*, *Treadaway*, *Dance*, *Dancey*, *Standeven*, *Skyp*.

Others on account of a gossiping propensity, as *Earwhisper*, *Chataway*, *Hearsay*, *Cant*, and *Lip-trot*!

Some indicate industry in various useful callings, as *Clapshoe*, *Gathercoal*, *Gathergood*, *Tugwell*, *Clinkscates* (!).

Others on the contrary denote indolence, as *Doo-little*, *Timeslow*.*

Some seem to refer to poverty; as *Houseless*, *Hunger*, *Drought*, *Need*, *Dearth*.

* This is a name of no modern origin. Katherine Swinford, third wife of John of Gaunt, had a waiting chambermaid so called. Her tomb, formerly in St. Andrew's church, Hertford, was thus inscribed: "Hic jacet Alice *Tyme-slow*, quondam dominella Ducissæ Lancastriæ, qui obiit xvi Sept. mcccxcvi."

Others to some habit, as *Whistler*, *Eatwell*, *Cram* (!), *Rideout*, *Chew*, *Drawwater*, *Twiceaday*, *Gotobed*, *Daily*, *Go-cum*.

Some seem appropriate to braggarts, as *Challenge*, *Boast*, *Brag*, *Lustyblood*; and some to mischievous persons, as *Scattergood*.

Swindles and *Bilke* would be unfortunate names for a couple of honest tradesmen; but I cannot guess at their origin.

Some appear to refer to character and disposition, as *Dudgeon*, *Wagg*, *Raw*, *Smoothman*.

A few may refer to accidents which befel the original bearers, as *Fallover*, *Quickfall*,* *Crusheye*.

Others may indicate cowardice, as *Chick*, *Faint*.

Drinkwater, *Drinkmilk*, *Drinksop*, and *Drinkdregs* form a queer quartette of names, and seem to refer to fondness of the respective beverages, though Camden places the first among local names.

Brownsword, *Dagger*, *Pistol*, *Trigger*, *Warbolt*, *Shotbolt*, if not nicknames, may have been inn-signs.

Paybody was perhaps a very honest trader; *Ruegain* was certainly a very foolish one, if honest!

Such names as *Window*, *Doors*, *Pillar*, *Porch*, *Tomb*, *Coffin*, *Casement*, *Treasure*, *Ring*, *Rope*, *Bridle*, *Latch*, *Lintell*, *Sheath*, *Goldring*, doubtless refer to some forgotten incident in the life of the first bearer.

In the wardrobe accounts of Edward I, the following sobriquets, become surnames, appear.† Thomas *Thousandpound*; Robert *Snowball* (Snouball), by antiphrasis perhaps for a dark complexion; Nicholas *Malemeyns* (bad hands). *Dulcia ffynamour* ('Sweet

* "Died on the 7th inst. at Came, co. Dorset, Mrs. Ann *Quick-fall*, aged 90!"—*Lady's Newspaper*, June 17, 1848.

† Ex. inf. W. H. Blaauw, Esq.

Fine-love') was a dealer in beer, and supplied the king at Westminster with 450 gallons of that refreshing fluid, which, if it possessed the same excellent qualities as the name of its vendor, must have been the 'superior XXX' of the thirteenth century.

Some appear to have been given on account of peculiarity of costume, as *High-hat*, *Slipshoe*, *Gaicote*.

In a Sussex subsidy roll for 1296 occur the following names: *J. Klenewater*, *Roger Sexapple*, *Walter Pudding*, *R. Pluckrose*, *J. Pullerose*, *R. Slytbody* (!), *W. Bronwere* ('brown-ware'), *T. Spendelove*, — *Moketrot*, *W. Storm*, *Nic. Trusselove*, and *W. Wolfheryng* !* *Symon Knave*, in the same list, was not opprobrious in those early times, but still retained its primitive meaning of servant.

An accidental mispronunciation of a word, or an inane and silly remark, has often been cast back, as a sobriquet, upon the person using it; from this contemptible source may spring such names as *Sayce*, *Guppy*,† *Maingy*, *Twigger*, *Wools*, *Agg*, *Digmeed*, *Bubb* and *Grubb* (all on the books of Pemb. Coll. Oxford in 1832), *Twithy*, *Nutchy*, *Jowsy*, *Snarry*, *Vitty*, *Thruttles*, *Jagger*, *Wox*, *Fligg*, *Jibb*, *Ragg*, *Lutt*, and *Brabbs*. (It is but right to add that these last names have been selected from a list compiled from such authorities as Police Reports and the Newgate Calendar. Hence probably many of them are modern sobriquets and aliases.) *Diggle*, *Bultitude*, *Stubbin*, *Bibby*, *Duddy*, *Kebby*, *Pilley*, *Cupples*, *Hoppy*, *Twiddy*, *Humpage*, *Guydickens*, *Puddy*, *Quelly*, *Repuke* (sic!), *Quomman*,

* The same. *William le Hog*, and *Roger le Waps*, occur in this roll. *Waps* is still a Sussex provincialism for wasp.

† This may however be a corruption of *Goupil*, an obsolete French word for fox, which is still retained as a surname in Normandy.

Killikilly and *Bospidnick* ! *Doo*, *Datt*, *Dudge*, *Prigg*, *Shikes*, *Bole*, *Jeve*, *Twinks*, *Pupp*, *Titt*, *Hext*, *Fake*, *Wodge*, *Fooks*, *Baa*, *Coggs*, *Snigg*, *Snagg*, *Smouch*, *Shick*, *Shum*, *Lum*, *Lush*, *Gagg*, *Smy*, *Voak*, and *Chout*, seem to set all etymology at defiance. Several of them might probably be found in a 'slang' dictionary, and others would in all likelihood prove, on investigation, to have originated within the last century.



CHAPTER XVII.

SURNOMINAL PUNS.—A HALF-CENTURY OF FACETIÆ.



ECTOR BENEVOLE! Lovest thou a
PUN? Or art thou of like opinion
with that most grave and profound
Doctor, that severe moralist, Johnson,
hight Samuel; to wit, that he who
would make a pun would pick a pocket?*

If so, turn, I pray thee, to another chapter, and be thou no partaker of the evil deeds of those who idly play with words, and waste their breath to tickle their ears; for be it known that this chapter is to be devoted to puns.

It is not my intention to dissertate upon puns and punning, but only to set down at random such of these "conceits, quirks, quibbles, jests, and repartees"† as relate to family names. I would, however, premise a word or two in defence of the practice.

The Great Author of man's redemption, addressing one of his disciples, says: "Thou art *Peter*, and upon this *Rock* will I build my church." Thus the sublimest Teacher of the sublimest morality saw no impropriety in an allusion in the nature of a pun.

* And yet this very Samuel, once at least in his lifetime, perpetrated a pun. When Mrs. Barbauld was introduced to him, he growled (*suo more*), "*Bare-bald!* why that's the very *pleonasm of baldness!*"

† Dr. Watts.

Sophocles, whom no one will suspect of false taste, making allusion to the name of Pyrrhus, calls him, 'O Pur'—O fire! Philoctet. act iv, sc. 2.

When the defender of a certain extortioner, whom Lutatius *Catulus* accused, thought he could by a sarcasm disconcert his too vehement adversary: "Why," said he, "do you bark, little dog?" (*Quid latras Catule?*) "Because I saw a thief!" replied Catulus.

Æschylus and Horace occasionally pun.

Thus punning has the sanction of antiquity.

Much of the piquancy of modern dramatists results from their employment of this species of wit. Shakespeare abounds in puns on names.

Punning was much affected in Germany in the sixteenth century, not only in literature, but in affairs of the most serious nature. Many of our old divines of a later period frequently indulge in a pun.

Of Hudibras we are informed that—

"he scarce could ope
His mouth, but out there flew a trope;"

and I have known some, equally fecund in puns, who, nevertheless, would not "pick a pocket" for the world.

I. SIR THOMAS MORE enjoyed a pun and a repartee. On one occasion his fondness for this species of humour got the better of his persecuting zeal. A man named SILVER being brought before him, he said, "*Silver*, you must be *tried by fire*." "Yes," replied the prisoner, "but you know, my Lord, that *Quick Silver* cannot abide

the fire!" Pleased with this answer, Sir Thomas suffered the man to depart.

II. IN the seventeenth century, Attorney-general Noy was succeeded by Sir John Bankes, and Chief-justice Heath being found guilty of bribery, Sir John Finch obtained the office : hence it was said :

“ *Noy's* flood is gone,
The *Banks* appear;
Heath is shorn down,
And *Finch* sings there !”

III. CAMDEN closes his curious collection of Epitaphs with the following, on “Thomas Churchyard, the poore Court-Poet.”

“ Come, Alecto, and lend me thy torch,
To finde a *Church-yard* in the Church-porch,
Pouerty and Poetry this Tombe doth inclose,
Therefore, Gentlemen, be merry in Prose.”*

IV. DR. LETTSOM, a famous physician of the last century, used to sign his prescriptions “I. LETTSOM,” which gave rise to the following :

“ When any patients calls in haste,
I physics, bleeds, and sweats 'em;
If after that they choose to die,
Why, what cares I?—
I LETS'EM.”

V. A PERSON whose name was *Gunn* complained to

* There is a little mistake here, for Churchyard was buried in the *choir* of St. Margaret's, Westminster.—*Weever's Fun. Mon.* p. 271.

a friend that his attorney in his bill had not *let him off easily*. "That is no wonder," said his friend, "as he *charged you too high!*" But this is not so good as an entry in the custom-house books of Edinburgh, where it appears that, A, meaning Alexander—"A. Gunn was *discharged for making a false report!*"

VI. THE late Mr. I. Came, the wealthy shoemaker of Liverpool, who left his immense property to public charities, opened his first shop on the opposite side of the street to that in which he had been a servant, and inscribed its front with—"I CAME FROM OVER THE WAY."

VII. A FRIEND of mine on being introduced to a Rev. Canon of St. Paul's, named *Wodsworth*, remarked (*aside*) that the latter was *non verbo dignus*—not *Wordsworth!*

VIII. ON the failure of two bankers in Ireland, named *Gonne* and *Going*, some one wrote:

"GOING and GONNE are now both one,
For GONNE is GOING, and GOING'S GONE!"

IX. A PARAGRAPH to the following effect went the round of the papers not many years since: Two attorneys in partnership in a town in the United States had the name of the firm, which was "*Catcham and Chetum*," inscribed in the usual manner upon their office door; but as the singularity and ominous juxta-position of the words led to many a coarse joke from passers-by, the men of law attempted to destroy, in part, the effect of the odd association by the insertion of the initials of their Christian names, which happened to be Isaiah and

Uriah; but this made the affair ten times worse, for the inscription then ran

“I. CATCHAM AND U. CHETUM.” !!!*

X. Most persons object to having their names made the subjects of a pun. “I was once,” says F. Leiber, “in company with a Mr. *Short*, in whose presence a Mr. *Shorter* was mentioned. ‘Your son?’ said a bystander quite gravely to Mr. Short, who, like most people, disrelished the joke on his name very much.”† Shenstone is said to have comforted himself with the consciousness that his name was not obnoxious to a pun.

XI. THE following epitaph on Constance Lucy (one of the Shakspearean Lucys), who died in 1596, aged 10, is in the church of the Holy Trinity, Minorities.

— “Et quondam *lucida*, *luce* caret,
Ante annos *Constans*, humilis, mansueta, modesta.”

XII. IN 1818, a person named *Danger* kept a public-house near Cambridge, on the Huntingdon road. On being compelled to quit his house, he built an inn on the opposite side of the road, and placed beneath his sign, “*Danger* from over the way,” whereupon his successor in the old hostel inscribed over *his* door, “There is no *Danger* here now,”—a fair *measure* of vintner’s wit.

* *Chetum* is probably a corruption of Chetham, the name of an antient family in Lancashire, of which the munificent founder of Manchester College was a member.

† *Stranger in America*, vol. ii; a work which contains a very curious letter on American names.

XIII. FOGG AND MIST were china-men in Warwick street. The firm afterwards became Fogg and Son, on which it was remarked that "the Sun had driven away the Mist!"

XIV. AT THUNDRIDGE, co. Herts, is an inscription to the memory of Roger *Gardiner*, son of Edward Gardiner, Esq., who died in 1558, aged 21.

"Roger lies here before his hour.

Thus doth the Gardiner lose his flower."

XV. THE senior churchwarden of Hackney some time since was Mr. *Dunn*, and his junior, Mr. *Welldone*, which involved a paradox, for by this arrangement Mr. *Welldone* was *under-Dunn*!

XVI. WITHIN the precincts of one of our cathedrals, a ball being about to take place at the house of one of the *canons*, a gentleman of the name of *Noys* was asked in company whether he was to be present at it. "To be sure," said a gentleman who heard it; "how should a *canon-ball* go off without *Noys*?"

XVII. IN ALL-SAINTS, HERTFORD, is the following somewhat contradictory epitaph:

"Here *sleeps* Mr. Wake,
Who gave four small bells."

XVIII. *Skin* and *Bone* were the names of two millers at Manchester, on whom Dr. Byrom wrote:—

"*Bone* and *Skin*, two millers thin,
Would starve us all or near it;
But be it known to *Skin* and *Bone*,
That *flesh* and *blood* can't bear it."

XIX. ONE of Curran's wittiest repartees was made at the expense of *Egan*, an Irish barrister. Entering court one day, Egan saw a certain nameless intruder on his friend's wig, and tapping him on the shoulder, exclaimed, with a knowing shrug—

“Cujum pecus? an Melibœi?”

to which, with admirable promptitude, Curran replied—

“Non, verum *Ægonis*: nuper mihi tradidit *Egan*!”

XX. A COUNTRYMAN reading upon a waggon the names of John Fell and Richard Fell, exclaimed with a horse-laugh, “Ho, ho! Then I s’pose they both *toombed* together!”

XXI. LORD NORBURY was asking the reason of the delay that happened in a cause, and was answered it was because Mr. Serjeant *Joy*, who was to lead, was absent, but Mr. *Hope*, the solicitor, had said he would return immediately; upon which his lordship humorously repeated the well-known lines,

“*Hope* told a flattering tale
That *Joy* would soon return.”

XXII. AN IRISHMAN saw the sign of the Rising Sun near Seven Dials, beneath which the name of the landlord, Aaron Moon, was written with only the initial letter of the Christian name, whereupon he exclaimed to a friend, “Och! Phelim, dear, see here. They talk of Irish bulls: why here’s a fellow now, who puts up the *Rising Sun* and calls it *A. Moon*!”

XXIII. NICHOLSON, whose portrait by Reinagle

adorns the University Library at Cambridge, originally hawked prints and maps round the colleges for sale, and it was his custom to bawl at the foot of the stair-cases, "Maps." This at length became his sobriquet, and elicited from a learned Cantab the following witty hexameter :

"Μάψ αὐτον καλέουσι Θεοί ; ἄνδρες δὲ Νίχολσον."

"Snobs call him Nicholson, plebeian name,
Which ne'er could hand a snobite down to fame ;
But to posterity he'll go—perhaps,
Since Granta's classic sons have dubbed him *Maps*."

XXIV. AN epitaph on Mr. JOHN BERRY.

"How ! how ! who's buried here ?

JOHN BERRY: Is't the younger ?

No, it is the *Elder-BERRY*.

AN ELDER-BERRY *buried* surely must

Rather spring up and live than turn to dust :

So may our BERRY, whom stern Death has slain,

Be only *buried* to rise up again."

Heraldic Anomalies.

XXV. ON the *worthy* Dr. Fuller :

"Here lies FULLER'S EARTH !"

XXVI. ON Dr. Walker, who wrote a book on the English particles :

"Here lie WALKER'S PARTICLES."

XXVII. WHO has not read, in the *Prolusiones Philosophicæ* of the venerable Josephus Millerius, the sexton's bill for making Mr. Button's grave ?—

"To making a *Button-hole*, 4s. 6d."

Here is a variorum edition of the same pun: "Which is the deepest, the longest, the broadest, and the smallest grave in Esher churchyard? Ans. That in which Miles Button lies buried; for it contains Miles below the sod, Miles in length, and Miles in breadth—and yet is only a Button-hole!"

XXVIII. GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS tells a curious anecdote of three persons travelling together, of whom the first was an archdeacon named Peché (latinized *Pecatum*), the second a rural dean called *Deville*, and the third, a Jew. When they arrived at *Illstreet*, on the borders of Wales, the archdeacon remarked to his subordinate that their jurisdiction began there and extended to *Malpas*. "Ah!" said their companion, "is it even so? a great marvel be it if I escape with a whole skin out of this jurisdiction, where the archdeacon is *Sin*, the dean a *Devil*, and the boundaries *Ill-street* and *Mal-passe!*"*

XXIX. THE name of the celebrated Alexander *Nequam* (Anglicé 'Bad') furnished the wits of his age with food for merriment. Wishing to devote himself to a monastic life in the abbey of St. Albans (his native town) he applied to the ruler of that establishment for admission. The abbot's reply was thus laconically expressed:

"*Si bonus sis, venias, si Nequam, nequaquam.*"

If you be good you may come; if WICKED, by no means!

He changed his name to *Neckham*, and was received into the fraternity.

* Camd. Rem. p. 141.

Philip, bishop of Lincoln, once sent Nequam this challenge:

“Et niger et nequam, cum sis cognomine *Nequam*,
Nigrior esse potes, nequior esse nequis.”

‘Both black and bad, whilst *Bad* the name to thee,
Blacker thou mayst, but worse thou canst not be.’

To this *nominal* compliment Alexander retorted—

“*Phi*, nota fætoris, *lippus* malus omnibus horis;
Phi malus et *lippus*, totus malus ergo *Philippus*.”

‘Stinks are branded with a *Phi*,
Lippus Latin for blear eye;
Phi and *lippus*, bad though either,
What must they be both together!’*

Neckham died in 1227.

XXX. CURRAN’S *bon-mot* on a brother barrister named *Going* is quite worthy of him. This gentleman fully verified the time-honoured adage, that ‘a story never loses in the telling,’ and took care to add to every anecdote all the graces that could be derived from his own embellishment. An instance of this was once remarked to Curran, who scarcely knew one of his own stories, it had so grown by the carriage. “I see,” said he, “the proverb is quite applicable, ‘*Vires acquirit eundo*’—It gathers by *Going*!”

XXXI. CURRAN’S ready wit never failed him. A gentleman named *Æneas* Macdonnell had been conducted to the watchhouse in a state of great ‘incapability,’ as he was returning from the enjoyment of the

* Fuller’s *Worthies*, p. 25.

hospitality of Archbishop *Troy*, and was charged with the offence the following morning; when Curran remarked, that the patrol had been guilty of a great blunder as well as a gross libel, since the gentleman was no less a person than "*Pius Æneas escaping from Troy's sack!*"

XXXII. "SIR," said a guest to his host one day at dinner, "this is a most excellent sirloin—pray what is the name of your purveyor?" "*Addison*," was the reply. "Any relation to the *Spectator*?" added the guest. "Most probably," was the prompt rejoinder, "for I often see *steel* by his side!"

XXXIII. ON MR. AIRE, in St. Giles's Cripplegate:

"Methinks this was a wondrous death,
That AIRE should die for want of breath!"

XXXIV. DR. HAWES was a physician in full practice. His name, one Christmas, called forth the following epigram:

"Perpetual freezings, and perpetual thaws,
Though bad for *hips*, are special good for *Hawes*!"

XXXV. "INSCRIPTION on my bed-maker at Cambridge, by J. M., Nov. 1789.

"Homini
qui hic jacet
Nomen erat
Mus;
Licet igitur viatori
exclamare
ERAS-MUS."

“Poor *Mus* when here a *Gyp* of lowly house,
Might wantonly be called a *man* or *mouse*;
But dead, he seems by virtue of his name,
To be a man of an immortal fame!”

XXXVI. THREE celebrated physicians of Cambridge bore the names of *Short*, *Long*, and *Askew*. In *Dyer's History of Cambridge* is the following punning conundrum on this trio:

“What’s *Doctor*, and *Dr.*, and *Doctor* writ so?—”

“*Doctor Long*, *Doctor Short*, and *Doctor Askew* ! !”

XXXVII. MR. FLOWER, formerly rector of St. Margaret’s, Lothbury, for nearly half a century, had the following quaint inscription, probably written by himself, inscribed on his tomb:

“I came up like a Flower, anno 1622, and was cut down anno 1698, but shall flourish again.”

“Nunc nihil suave superest, præter nomen.”

XXXVIII. A SHORT time since a tradesman named James Fell migrated from Ludgate Hill to Fleet Street, and announced the event in the following manner:

“I FELL
from Ludgate Hill ;”

under which a wag wrote—

“Oh ! what a fall was there, my countryman !”

XXXIX. AN OLD LADY, who was very anxious respecting a favourite nephew, a student at Catherine

Hall, enquired of his tutor how he conducted himself. "Oh," replied the latter, "very well indeed, madam; he sticks to Catherine Hall." "Sticks to *Catherine Hall*, does he? the young reprobate—but his father was just like him, always fond of the girls!"

XL. SIR JOHN MANNERS, who was created Earl of Rutland, told Sir Thomas More that he was too much elated by his preferment, and really verified the old proverb, 'Honores mutant *Mores*.' "Nay, my lord," retorted Sir Thomas, "the proverb does much better in English: Honours change *Manners*!"

XLI. A GENTLEMAN, named *Page*, picked up a lady's glove, and presented it to her with the following impromptu:

"If that from Glove you take the letter G,
Then glove is *love*, and that I give to thee."

To which she wittily responded:

"If that from Page you take the letter P,
Then Page is *age*, and that *won't* do for me!"

This small anecdote may probably be not very new to the readers of Josephus (Millerius, I mean); the following better one is an acknowledged extract from that classical writer: "It being proved in a trial at Guildhall that a man's name was really *Inch*, who pretended it was *Linch*: 'I see,' said the judge, 'the proverb is verified in this man, who, being allowed an *inch*, has taken an *L*!'" "Out of this," adds a learned editor of our venerable author, "comes the *jeu d'esprit* fathered upon Liston and his fascinating and *petite* spouse.

Some one having addressed the lovely little lady as "Mrs. L," "Mrs. L!" repeated the comedian, "I call her Mrs. *Inch*."

XLII. EPITAPH:

"Here lieth Jack Meadow,
Whose dayes passed away like a shadow.

N.B. His proper name was Field, but it is changed here for the sake of the *rhyme*!"

XLIII. THE following *jeu d'esprit* appeared in the newspapers in 1841,

THE 'LOGUE' FAMILY.

"The crier of a neighbouring county-court was upon a certain occasion required to go to the court-house door, and, as is usual in the absence of a witness, call out for *Philip Logue*, one of the sons of Erin, who had been summoned in a certain case then pending. The man of the baton accordingly stepping to the door, sang out at the top of his voice, *Philip Logue! Philip Logue!* A wag of a lawyer, happening to pass the door at the time, whispered in his ear, 'Epilogue' also. *Eppy Logue!* bawled the crier. 'Decalogue,' too, prompted the lawyer, sotto voce. *Dicky Logue!* vociferated the crier. 'Apologue,' suggested the man of law. *Apo Logue!* reiterated the official, at the same time expostulating with the lawyer,—'Surely you want the whole family of 'em, Sir!' 'Prologue,' said the persevering lawyer, with assumed indifference. *Pro Logue!* rang through the hall, attracting the attention of everybody in court, and shocking the tympana of the dignitaries on the bench themselves, who not understanding the

cause of all this vociferation, dispatched a tipstaff with all haste to order the crier to desist from any further invocation of the numerous family of *the Logues* !”

So much, at present, for direct puns. Let us now turn for awhile to the odd and curious associations in the nature of puns to be met with in every-day life. Marriage, commercial partnerships, and similar relations frequently exhibit very humorous combinations, and sometimes the name of a person suits admirably to, or differs *toto cælo* from, his office or vocation.

XLIV. Hymen plays sad vagaries with the nomenclature of his votaries. We have seen Mr. *Good* married to Miss *Evil* ; Mr. *Bean* to Miss *Pease* ; Mr. *Brass* to Miss *Mould* ; and Mr. *Gladdish* to Miss *Cleverly*.* “Two Messrs. Lamb of Salisbury Square, London,” writes a facetious correspondent, “married the two Misses Wolfe of Ewell, thus fulfilling an antient prophecy, *si ita dicam!*” In Edinburgh lately the following ornithological match took place, which set the whole neighbourhood in a *flutter*. Miss *Henrietta Peacock* was espoused to Mr. *Robin Sparrow*, by the Rev. Mr. *Dow*, the bridesman being Mr. Philip *Hawk*, and the brideswoman Miss *Larkins*. The marriage lines were extracted by Mr. John *Crow*, session clerk. It is worthy of further remark that the sexton’s name is *Raven*, one of the pew-openers is a *Gull*, and the assistant-sexton, not of course in holy orders, is a *Henry LAY-cock* !†

Mr. *Goose*, according to a provincial paper, lately married a Miss *Flock*. Hence a troop of goslings may result ; while from the union of Mr. *Dunbar*, iron-

* Collet’s Relics of Literature, p. 395.

† Newspaper paragraph.

founder, to Miss *Link* a long *chain* of posterity may be expected.

XLV. IN partnerships we often discover a singular junction of names, as 'Bowyer and Fletcher;' 'Carpenter and Wood;' 'Spinage and Lamb;' 'Sage and Gosling;' 'Rumfit and Cutwell, tailors;' 'Pipe and Tabor;' 'Greengoose and Measure,' another firm of tailors; 'Single and Double;' 'Evans and Liberty' (Piccadilly—a political cry); 'Foot and Stocking, hosiers;' and 'Wright, late Read and Wright.' '*Adam and Eve*' were surgeons in partnership in *Paradise Row*! In Holborn, 'Byers' and 'Sellers' live in fortunate proximity on opposite sides of the street.

XLVI. SOMETIMES (as I have said) the occupation of persons harmonizes admirably with their surnames. I have noticed this fact particularly in relation to inn-keepers.

Gin and *Ginman* are publicans; so is *Alehouse*. *Seaman* is landlord of the 'Ship' Hotel, and *A King* holds the 'Crown and Sceptre' in City Road! *Portwine* and (his *poor* relative?) *Negus* are very properly licensed victuallers, one in Westminster, the other in Bishopsgate Street. *Corker* is a pot-boy, whose name affords a happy omen of his one day rising to the rank of a butler. *Mixwell* keeps a country inn.

Again, *Tugwell* is a shoemaker; so are *Fitall* and *Treadaway*; so is *Pinch* (bad in *to-to*). Another *Tugwell* is a dentist; *Bird* an egg-merchant; *Hemp* a sheriff's officer; Isaac *Paddle* commands a steam-boat; and Mr. *Punt* is a member of the Surrey wherry-club! *Laid-man* was a pugilist; and *Smooker* (qu. 'smoker?') a lime-burner!

Brand-ram is the name of an excellent episcopalian pastor; *Nigh-font* is a clergyman, and *Order-son* a Catholic priest.

"Major *Dives*," says a correspondent, "lives next door to me, and *Lazarus* picks up his crumbs as a hawker, round the corner."

A *Sacheverel*, according to Mr. Halliwell, means 'the iron door or *blower* at the mouth of a stove.' What an appropriate designation for the only historical person bearing it, who was a most successful blower of the fires of discord!

Pop-ham is a general in the army; *Dun-man* is the toll-taker upon Waterloo Bridge; *Light-foot* was a dancing-master; *Ride-out* a stable-keeper; and *Pye* a pastry-cook.

XLVII. SOMETIMES, however, the name assorts very badly with the occupation. For instance, *Littlefear*, *Butcher*, *Death*, and *Coffin* were the names of so many apothecaries and surgeons; and Mrs. *Despair* was a monthly nurse! *Grind-all* was an archbishop—should have been a miller.

"In the neighbourhood of a fashionable square in London," deponeth a late newspaper paragraph, "are now living surgeons whose names are *Churchyard*, *Death*, *Blood*, and *Slaughter*."

A correspondent sends me the following list of gentlemen of the medical profession known to him:

DOCTORS. *Physick*, *Galen*, *Butcher*, *Slaughter*, *Coffin*, and *Tomb*.

SURGEONS. *Blood*, *Bone*, *Braine*, *Cutler*, *Cutting*, *Cannon* (in the Artillery), *Rawbone*, *Stabb*, *Burns*, *Hurt*, and *Smart*!

Three butchers in Sussex bear the singularly ro-

mantic, but wholly inappropriate, surnames of *Venus*, *Love*, and *Myrtle* !

A 'long beard' does not seem an appropriate appendage to the chin of a pastry-cook. It is, however, no less strange than true, that some few years since there were on the eastern side of Regent Street only three confectioners, whose surnames were—

'*VERY*'
LONG
BEARD !

With such names before him, Horace Smith asserts that "Surnames ever go by contraries."

"Mr. *Oldcastle* dwells in a modern-built hut,
Miss *Sage* is of mad-caps the archest,
Of all the queer bachelors Cupid e'er cut,
Old Mr. *Younghusband*'s the starchest.

* * * * *

Mr. *Swift* hobbles onward, no mortal knows how,
He moves as though cords had entwined him ;
Mr. *Metcalfe* ran off upon meeting a cow,
With pale Mr. *Turnbull* behind him !

* * * * *

Mr. *Barker*'s as mute as a fish in the sea,
Mr. *Miles* never moves on a journey
Mr. *Gotobed* sits up till half-after three,
Mr. *Makepeace* was bred an attorney.
Mr. *Gardener* can't tell a flower from a root,
Mr. *Wild* with timidity draws back ;
Mr. *Rider* performs all his travels on foot,
Mr. *Foote* all his journeys on horseback !"

XLVIII. "WHAT a name," the Doctor would say
"is *Lamb* for a soldier; *Joy* for an undertaker; *Rich* for
a pauper, or *Noble* for a tailor; *Big* for a lean or little
person ; and *Small* for one who is broad in the rear and
abdominous in the van; *Short* for a fellow six feet

without his shoes ; or *Long* for him whose high heels hardly elevate him to the height of five ; *Sweet* for one who has either a vinegar face or a foxy complexion ; *Younghusband* for an old bachelor ; *Merryweather* for any one in November, or February, a black spring, a cold summer, or a wet autumn ; *Goodenough* for a person no better than he should be ; *Toogood* for any human creature ; and *Best* for a subject who is perhaps too bad to be endured.”*

XLIX. OUR painters of sign-boards are seldom very learned in punctuation. They generally either present us with a redundancy of stops, or totally omit them. In the latter case we sometimes meet with such inscriptions as—‘A Wood Smith,’ ‘Lion Butcher,’ ‘Clay Baker,’ ‘Winch Turner,’ ‘Peacock Builder,’ ‘Gay Painter,’ ‘Church Saddler,’ ‘Moon Gilder!’

L. THE godfathers of one Jeremiah Ekins were James Nott and John Butt, after whom he was baptized with both their Christian and surnames. The effect of his name, when heightened with a comma or two, is very singular :

James, Nott John, Butt Jeremiah, Ekins !

LI. A HUXTER or market-gardener in Middlesex was brought before a magistrate for not having complied with the Act of Parliament which required that every owner of a cart should have his name, and that of his place of residence, with the words ‘a taxed cart,’ legibly painted thereon. In reply to the charge, the man asserted that he had done what the law demanded,

* Southey’s *Doctor*, vol. vii.

as the magistrate might easily convince himself; where-upon, a 'view' of the cart being taken, the following words were read:

A MOST ODD ACT ON A TAXED CART.

This looked strange, not to say contumacious, until it was explained to mean—

AMOS TODD, ACTON, A TAXED CART.!

LII. A MAN of the name of *Nobis* having opened a public 'accommodation' on the high road leading from Pappenburgh, his neighbours caused him no little vexation by their opposition, &c.; but this, and other difficulties, he overcame by industry and perseverance, and after he had established himself, he made the following addition to his sign-board: "Si Deus pro *Nobis*, quis contra nos?" If God be for us, who can be against us?

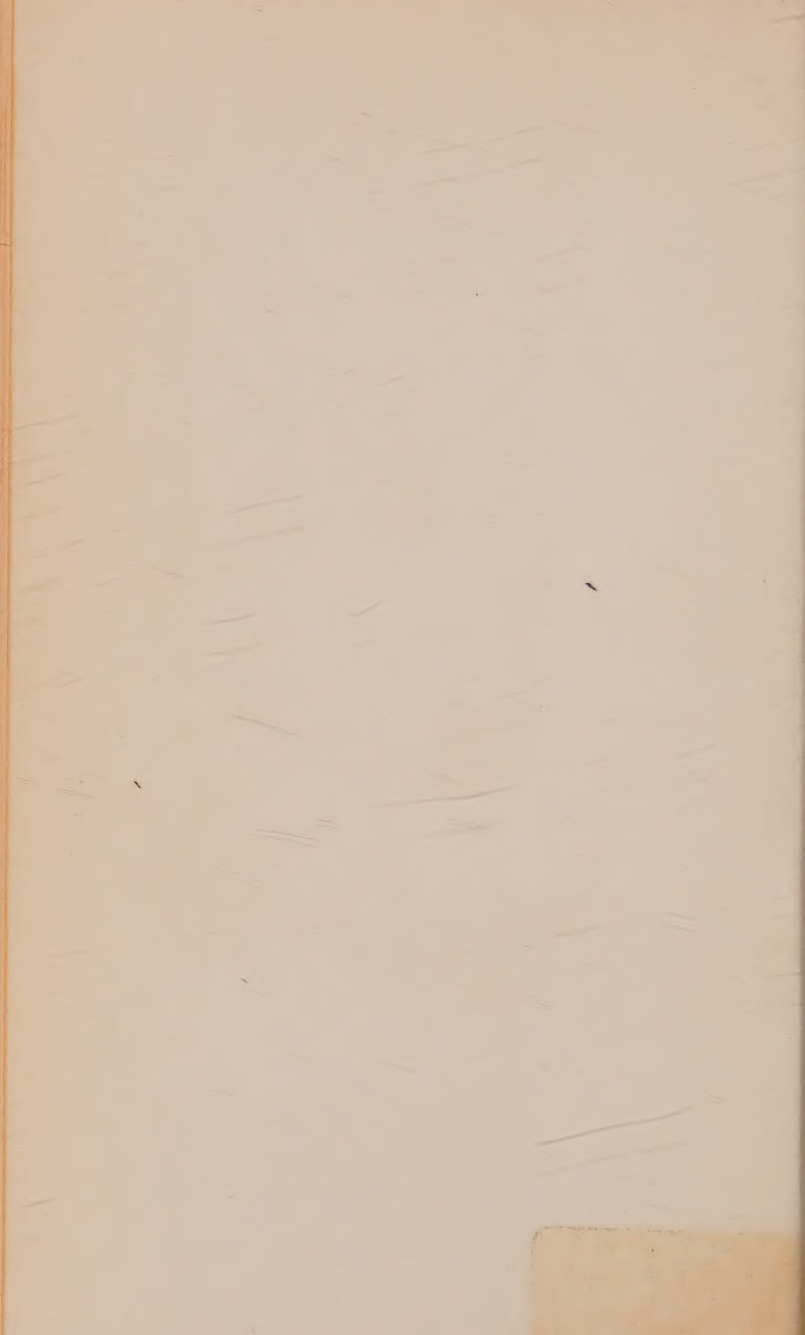
LIIL. SOUTHEY tells a story of a lady who ordered a book entitled 'An Essay on Burns,' thinking it was a dissertation on the genius of her favourite Scottish bard, but found to her disappointment that its 'subject-matter' was *burns* and *scalds*, and that the author was a surgeon.* I might add what would be a new 'fact for the faculty,' and contend that Burns and Scalds were synonymous, for the latter, among the old Scandinavians, were poets.

LIV. WILLIAM III, and his followers, landed at Tor-

* The Doctor. I once happened to be in a bookseller's shop when a rustic messenger who had been desired to order a copy of a well-known poem for his master, asked—"Please, Sir, have you got one of them books about Young Knight's Thoughts?"

bay, on Nov. 5, 1688. A Mr. John Duke (of Otterton), a man of wealth and influence in Sidmouth, joined the hero on his arrival: being presented to the king, who asked him for his name, he replied, with a timid hesitation, "John Duke of Otterton." The prince expressed his surprise, and taking from his pocket a list of the nobility, which he had been led to suppose was correct, looked over it, and then declared that no such duke was to be found there! The gentleman, however, soon rectified the mistake, by repeating his name with an accelerated pronunciation,—John Duke, of Otterton. The mistake being thus corrected, William smiled at it, and embraced John Duke with joy.

END OF VOL. 1.



THE



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